



Kate Nimrod

February 21, 1923 - April 26, 2025

Kathleen “Kate” LaVaughn Nimrod, 102, of Cedar Falls, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Bickford Cottage in Cedar Falls.

Kate was born on February 21, 1923, in Conway, Iowa, the daughter of Oscar and Gladys (McKay) Smith. She graduated from Villisca High School, class of 1940, as a straight A student. On February 28, 1943, she was united in marriage to the love of her life, Leland Nimrod, in Chico, CA. Kate and Leland returned to Iowa to lay down their roots. Kate worked for decades as the secretary to the assistant principal/athletic director of Cedar Falls High School, where she immensely enjoyed serving the school and its students until her retirement.

Kate is survived by her daughter, Pam Gabriel of Cedar Falls; grandchildren, Rocky (Bethany) Gabriel, Cole (Paige) Gabriel, Brandt Gabriel, and Dylan Nimrod; great grandchildren, RJ, David, Anika, and Leland; sister-in-law, Barb (and family) Smith of Maine; nephews, Randy and Kent (Mary) Smith of Texas; lifelong family friends, Janet and Lorne Bidwell; and the countless friends she made over her lifetime. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leland; son, Darold “Steve” Nimrod; and brothers, Wayne, Gene, and Richard “Kent” Smith.

Kate was an avid reader, had a passionate love for the Hawkeyes, and was known for being physically active in ways that would put people decades younger to shame. She was an excellent cook who loved cooking for friends and family, especially her lemon bars that her husband Leland preferred over birthday cake. Kate's numerous recipes have been passed down to the next generations, who will attempt to recreate the delights she so effortlessly prepared.

To Kate, family was always the center of her world; to her family, Kate was the heart of the family. She was a beacon of kindness, compassion, and caring that influenced all around her for the better. Kate cherished her family and instilled in them all with a deep sense of family and togetherness; stimulating conversation was always a must. Her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are all filled with memories and experiences that have shaped them to this day. Kate's remaining loved ones will always remember, honor, respect, and appreciate everything that she has done for them over the century of life she lived, the memories she helped create, and the love she showed them.

Kate's family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Bickford, the Hospice Nurses at Compassus, and Chaplin Justin Gordon for the love and care that they gave to Kate.

A private family service will be held. The family asks that memorials be directed to Compassus Hospice Services; online condolences can be made at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

12th and Division Streets
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Tribute Wall

BK

“*Kate added so much joy to our Laughter Yoga group while we were meeting. Being outside in the summertime was special, as was Kate. She was a special person, and Rick and I were so glad to know her. With sympathy, Bea Koontz*

Bea Koontz - May 10, 2025 at 02:49 PM

KN

*Thank-you so much!
I remember her talking about laughing yoga!
Best wishes
Pam and Family*

Kate Nimrod - May 11, 2025 at 01:24 PM

BB

“*I remember Kate Nimrod from Cedar Falls High School. Also her husband Leland Nimrod was my principal at Valley Park Elementary School. She was wonderful assistant at the high school. My condolences to the family. Barbara Bushby (Ward)*



Barbara Bushby - May 03, 2025 at 09:27 PM

KN

*Thank you for remembering.
Pam and Family*

Kate Nimrod - May 11, 2025 at 01:25 PM

DH

“ Pam and family... my sincere condolences on the loss of your mom. I have many fond memories from the '70's and '80's... our walks, our talks, shopping together, holidays. I loved her cooking and baking too. Hugs, Debbie (Kelley) Heberling

Deborah Kelley Heberling - April 29, 2025 at 03:19 PM

PA

Oh Debbie what a joy to hear
From you!
I have thought of you so often through the years.
Mom loved you to pieces and I thought of you more as a sister than a sister-in-law.
And I loved watching Bengi when you needed a sitter!
I hope these years have been extraordinarily happy ones!
You so deserve to be.
Than-you so much for reaching out.
Best wishes always.
Love,
Pam and family

I hope

Pam - April 29, 2025 at 05:28 PM

DH

Pam... what a beautiful tribute to your mom. Cydney notified me of her passing today. You'll always hold a special place in my heart. I still make some of your mom's recipes. I remarried in 1994 and my husband passed away last November... With love to you and your family...
Deb

Deborah Kelley Heberling - April 29, 2025 at 06:18 PM

DD

“*Kate was without a doubt the hardest working person at Cedar Falls High School. She was a meticulous worker. When she baked, we were treated to delicious treats!
May she know she was loved and appreciated.
Dean Dreyer*

Dean Dreyer - April 29, 2025 at 10:01 AM

PA

*Dean,
Thank-you for reaching out.
She had quite a ride@ CF that's for sure!
She so enjoyed her job through out the years.
Best wishes
Pam and family*

Pam - April 29, 2025 at 05:32 PM

BS

“*Kate was fun to be with. As her sister in law, we spent many happy times together in Iowa, Illinois and Maine. She was good at everything she did, loved her family deeply and touched many people's lives. She will be missed.*

barbara smith - April 28, 2025 at 06:49 PM

PA

*Love you Barb!
I am so thankful she at peace and with her loved ones.
Makes me wondered what Kent and mom ate up too!
She thought the world of you and
Your family
We have surely been blessed.
Pam and family*

Pam - April 28, 2025 at 09:36 PM

MF

“ I have such a deep respect and admiration for Kate--special memories of years spent together. As a family, I know you feel a great pride for her life and her impact.

Kate helped to shape and define the culture of CFHS through her professionalism, loyalty and dedication. Every staff member was better because of her tireless work and preparation. Every student was better because of her care and wise counsel. She helped each person in the office to be at our best--it was a standard of excellence that she held for herself AND expected of her colleagues!

I knew that being a wife of a Principal had provided her with a special understanding of the demands, the challenges, the pressures, and the responsibilities of the position. I am forever grateful to Kate for helping to shape my first step as a high school administrator. I am also so thankful for the care that she had for the entire Farland family.

*Mark and Bonnie Farland
Sarah, Abby, and Meredith*

Mark Farland - April 28, 2025 at 11:48 AM

PA

*I know mom thought the world of you and your family!
Mom shared any communication and pictures your family sent.
Yes she had quite a ride at CF.
I agree she was a very dedicated employee very meticulous!
Yes our family is so very proud of her.
Thank so much for sharing your memories!
Wish you and your family all the best!*

Pam and family

Pam - April 28, 2025 at 04:16 PM

MD

“*Kate always loved her coffee and being by the fire place every second she could be. She was the sweetest little lady ever and we will never ever forget her. Us staff at Bickford placed her photo by her favorite place. She will be with us forever. Much love from Bickford staff<3*



Malahna Davis - April 28, 2025 at 12:20 AM

PA

*Thank-you for your kind words.
We are forever thankful to all the kindness, love and support given to Kate and her family.
I see her favorite yellow tulips beside her picture.
Couldn't have given Kate a tribute!
Well done!*

Pam - April 28, 2025 at 03:35 AM

BB

“*Kate was one of the most dedicated employees that ever set foot in Cedar Falls High School. I will never forget her many years behind that counter in the high school office. I always kidded her about being so frugal with the chalk supply (back in the day when we used chalk in the math department). She was a wonderful lady. Picture was taken the last time that I saw her at Village Inn when she was almost 100. Harriet and I send our condolences.*

Bill Bader



Bill Bader - April 27, 2025 at 01:52 PM

PA

*Thank-you for sharing your memories and kind words.
She was for sure one of a kind!
Pam and family*

Pam - April 27, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“*1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Richardson Funeral Service - April 27, 2025 at 12:43 PM

DP

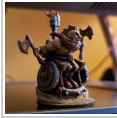
*Dear Pam,
This is the Mrs. Nimrod I remember many many years ago in La Porte City. I have thought about you often and remember our play dates when we were very young. I lived on Main Street and you lived by the park. I moved to Cedar Falls in 2020.
My sincere condolences.
Debbie Webber Phillips*

Deb Phillips - April 29, 2025 at 12:38 AM

NW

*Pam and Family,
I have wonderful memories of Kate! She was one of those special friends that you never forget..her lovely smile, always interested (especially recipes!) I have her cream puff recipe that I treasure! Your Mom was one of many who made my time at CF an "adventure" in joy!!
May the love of family and friends surround you all,
Nell Wilson*

nell wilson - May 03, 2025 at 10:56 AM



Mrs. Nimrod was always so nice and caring. As a professor at the University of North Texas who taught on topics of diversity, including socioeconomic status, I cannot recall the number of times I shared stories of her generosity and caring. I was one of the kids who benefited from the Federal school lunch program and always carried a little bit of shame about it. Mrs Nimrod, as always, was so incredibly gracious in her interactions when I would go to the office to receive my lunch card. On one occasion she even told a little white lie to spare my feelings. There were several other students n the office, so she handed over my the lunch card stating, "your mom stopped by to get you this lunch ticket." That seemingly insignificant act of kindness and thoughtfulness made an impact throughout my entire life. Rest in peace classy lady! Randall Cox

Randall Cox - May 03, 2025 at 01:16 PM

GK

I have such wonderful memories of Kate. Her dedication to staff and students at the high school were unmatched. I will always cherish the after school talks we had long after students and staff had left for the day. I learned about her love of books, old romantic movies (they don't make them like that anymore), and her Iowa Hawkeyes. When Iowa coaches would stop by the high school to recruit one of our students, they'd always asked to see Kate first. They knew about special Kate was too! She also talked about her love of family and would give updates on her cherished grandchildren.

I was so fortunate and thankful that Kate was a part of my life, and she was able to "train" this young administrator. (I still miss being called "kid" by her.) I had such deep admiration for her professionalism and dedication and the positive impact she had on so many lives at the high school.

My condolences to Kate's family.

Gary Koenen

Gary Koenen - May 04, 2025 at 09:30 PM

MM

*Mrs. Nimrod was just the sweetest lady in the world. I enjoyed working in the office with her early mornings at Cedar Falls High School. She always had a way of making you smile, weather it was just a kind word as you passed her in the hall or if it was just that little pep in her step that nobody else had. Kate was a one of a kind person and she will forever be remembered as that sweet lady that worked in the office that made us kids want to be better. My condolences to Kate's family.
Melanie Visser Class of 1993*

Melanie Miller - May 05, 2025 at 11:06 AM