



Marilyn Palmer Ray

November 22, 1932 - February 3, 2021

Marilyn Palmer Ray, 88, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, passed away on February 3, 2021 after a long illness. Marilyn was born on November 22, 1932 in Waverly, IA to Harry and Violet (Crawford) Wilder. She grew up in rural Allison, IA, graduated from Allison High School, and attended Wartburg College. Prior to marriage, Marilyn was employed as a secretary at the Shepard & Shepard law firm in Allison and for the Congregational Christian Conference in Grinnell, IA. On July 17, 1955, Marilyn was united in marriage to George A. Palmer. They resided in Waterloo, IA, Newport, RI, and Minneapolis, MN where Marilyn was employed as a secretary. In 1959, the couple moved to Parkersburg, IA where they owned and operated Palmer's Super Market until George's death in 1988.

Marilyn was an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Parkersburg for many years where she served as organist and pianist, taught Sunday School, and coordinated and hosted Bible studies.

On January 2, 1998, Marilyn was united in marriage to Charles R. Ray. They resided in Sun City West, AZ and Cohasset, MN. Marilyn was a member of Palm West Community Church in Sun City West where she was a member of the chancel choir, the bell choir, and served as a pianist. She was also a Stephen Ministries caregiver. Charles Ray passed away in 2006.

Marilyn moved back to Iowa in 2017 and became a member of Prairie Lakes Church, Cedar Falls.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, George Palmer, her second

husband, Charles Ray, her parents, her sister and brother-in-law, Jack and Harriet (Wilder) Opperman, and brother-in-law, Don Lindaman.

Marilyn is survived by her son Doug (Cindy) Palmer of Apple Valley, MN, daughters Lynn (Tom) Tower of Phoenix, AZ, and Kay (John) Fuller of Cedar Falls; grand-children: Ally (Chris) Latta, Shane (Brynn) Fuller, Karly (Ben) Fessler, Dain Palmer, Dylan Palmer, and Madison Palmer; and eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by step grand-children: Tammy Tower, Jennifer (Chris) Cooper, and Clay (Janee) Tower; and seven step great-grandchildren.

Through her marriage to Chuck Ray, Marilyn is survived by step-daughters: Cindy (Dave) Krumm of Center Point, IA, Candy (Lynn) Betts of Johnston, IA, Tracy (Tom) Worley of Rockwell, IA, and Kim (Neal) Thuente of Johnston, IA and collectively their 11 grandchildren and 21 great grand-children.

Marilyn enjoyed music, summers at the cabin, reading, golf, playing cards and board games, and was an avid Phoenix Suns fan. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and her many, many friends. Marilyn was known for her gentleness, sweet spirit, and ability to lighten any situation with her quick wit.

Memorial services will be held 10:30am Monday, February 8, at Prairie Lakes Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa with gravesite service to follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Parkersburg. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at church. Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice. Online guestbook at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 9:30 AM (CT)

Prairie Lakes Church
1907 Viking Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-2655
<http://www.prairielakeschurch.org>

Memorial Service

FEB 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Prairie Lakes Church
1907 Viking Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-2655
<http://www.prairielakeschurch.org>

Inurnment

FEB 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery
Parkersburg, IA

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Sharon Kay Ramey lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Palmer Ray*



Sharon Kay Ramey - February 15, 2021 at 01:28 PM

JD

“ *Dear Palmer & Ray families, Very sorry to read of Marilyn's passing. Marilyn and Harriet were childhood friends of my mother, Shirley (Scott) Doeden. They lived less than a mile from each other north of Allison. Their parents were long-time friends. I also must mention the dear friendship my aunt, Dena (Doeden) Huisman had with your family. She cherished her friendship with Marilyn over so many years. Marilyn was a very special person. Peace be with you all.*

Jay Doeden - February 12, 2021 at 05:05 PM

ND

“ *i'm a cousin (one of those Wilders), wanting to express my sympathy to Marilyn's family.*

Nadean Dralle (grandmother Bernice Wilder, mother Valda Wilder)

Nadean Dralle - February 11, 2021 at 06:20 PM

GR

“ *Our sympathy to the Palmer family. Marilyn was such a gracious loving Christian lady.*
Terry and Gail Ridder

Gail Ridder - February 09, 2021 at 01:44 PM

PW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Patty Walsh - February 07, 2021 at 02:38 PM

KS

“ *Palmer and Ray families, so sorry to hear of your mothers passing as she was loved by many. I'll never forget living next door to the grocery store I loved so many years ago.*

Kristy Graham Schipper

Kristy Graham Schipper - February 07, 2021 at 02:31 PM

TT

“ *Doug, Very sad to read about your mom's passing! I have many good memories of working with your dad and mother. Condolences on your loss.*

Tom Taber

Tom N Taber - February 07, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Connie Dreyer - February 06, 2021 at 04:46 PM

DZ

“ My deepest sympathy to Marilyn’s family. She loved all her friends but her family most of all. Marilyn was such a wonderful, generous person and had a great sense of humor. I had many fun times with her. The picture is from a trip my Mom, Katherine Tammen, Marilyn and I took to the East Coast in the fall of 1989. On that trip I learned that she loved shopping and popcorn. Chuck and Delma (Tammen) Zanella



Delma Zanella - February 06, 2021 at 11:35 AM

WF

“ With Loving Memories, Susan and Paul Ferriter purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.



With Loving Memories, Susan and Paul Ferriter - February 06, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



February 06, 2021 at 10:42 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



February 05, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



February 05, 2021 at 07:01 PM



“ *Dave and Cindy, Melissa, Brian, Angie and families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



Dave and Cindy, Melissa, Brian, Angie and families -
February 05, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



February 05, 2021 at 08:40 AM



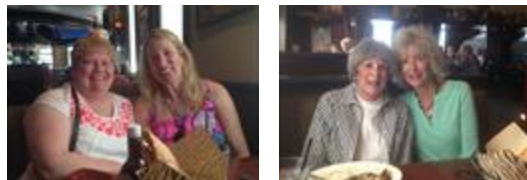
“ *Jane Keller (Albright) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



Jane Keller (Albright) - February 04, 2021 at 06:54 PM



“ *I met Marilyn when I visited her and George in Parkersburg with Lynn. Lynn and I were students at Bethel College. Marilyn was very kind to me and was concerned about me. She made me feel right at home in her beautiful house. She was always so pretty and put together. She cooked our meals and was the nicest, funnest person to be with. I had the chance to see Marilyn again in Phoenix AZ in 2016 with Lynn and Andrea. We went out to eat and she joined us in her white SUV, looking gorgeous, and made our lunch so special. I didn't know that she was a singer, and she gave us a sample of her beautiful voice right there in the restaurant! We all had a great laugh. She was the sweetest, kindest person I've ever known and I will miss her dearly. I only hope to be more like her.*



Jane Keller - February 04, 2021 at 06:51 PM

LP

Jane. This is beautiful. Thank you!!

Lynn Palmer - February 05, 2021 at 10:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marilyn Palmer Ray.*



February 04, 2021 at 04:11 PM

CB

“ *We're thinking of all of you at this time. Marilyn was such a wonderful sweet person. Our dad and the Ray girls were so lucky to have her in our lives.*

Candy and Lynn Betts

Candy Betts - February 04, 2021 at 04:06 PM

CB

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Candy Betts - February 04, 2021 at 03:55 PM