



Marlys Cook

November 18, 1933 - October 12, 2023

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Marlys Elaine Cook, 89, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, who entered the eternal embrace of the Lord on October 12, 2023, at UnityPoint Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo.

Born on November 18, 1933, to Ralph and Valeda (Squires) Auner in Waverly, IA, Marlys's early years were spent working their family Grocery store in Janesville, alongside her brother Ray. It was there that she learned the values of hard work and the primacy of family. Sunday dinners with her grandparents held a special place in her heart. In her youth, Marlys was a standout on the Janesville High School girls' basketball team, earning the distinction of being a first-team All-State player. Her towering frame and long arms allowed her to secure many rebounds.

After high school, she attended the University of Northern Iowa for two years and later obtained a degree in Nursing Home Administration from Des Moines Community College. On October 25, 1952, Marlys married her high school sweetheart, Cecil I. Cook Jr. They enjoyed a rich and fulfilling life together until his passing in 2011. During Cecil's two-year deployment in South Korea as a U.S. Army servicemember, Marlys faithfully wrote him a letter every day until his safe return. Their union resulted in three children, Brian (1955), Bradley (1958), and Gena (1964), and they later welcomed Deanna, a beloved foster daughter, into their family.

Marlys dedicated over 30 years of her life to serving as a nursing home administrator, overseeing numerous facilities across Iowa, including a 16-year tenure at the Winneshiek County Care Center in Decorah, IA. A natural leader, Marlys had an innate ability to bring people together with her warm and compassionate delegation.

In her later years, Marlys and Cecil cherished their travels across the country to visit their children and attend their grandchildren's sporting events. Family held a special place in Marlys's heart, evident from the walls adorned with pictures of her loved ones. She kept busy creating countless photo albums, knitting cozy blankets and scarves, and assembling puzzles. Marlys will be fondly remembered for her radiant spirit, her love for games, and her famous pecan pies.

Marlys was a devoted member of the United Methodist Church for many years and a dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Marlys Elaine Cook leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and warmth that will forever be cherished by all who knew her.

Marlys is survived by foster daughter, Deanna (Tom) Sullivan of Bloomington, IL; daughter-in-law, Susan Cook of Cedar Falls; son, Bradley (Chris) Cook of Cedar Falls; daughter, Gena (Robert) Bappe of Harford, SD; grandchildren, Alex (Nate) Oakland, Brooke (Beau) Fitts, Elizabeth (Tyler) Ford, Blake (Sarah) Bappe, Jeremiah (Cassie) Cook, Jennifer (Richard) Schlotfeldt, Daniel (Lindsay) Sullivan, and Laura (Tom) Feely; 26 great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. Nephew, Thomas Auner, and Niece, Becky Auner-Paulsen. Special friends, Cathy Dahlstrom, and Peggy Reiser.

She was preceded in death by her son Brian Cook; her husband, Cecil Cook; her brother Ray Auner; and her parents.

Pallbearers: Bob Bappe, Blake Bappe, Jeremiah Cook, Nate Oakland, Tyler Ford, Beau Fitts

Visitation & Open Casket – Friday, October 20th 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm,

Private Eastern Star service from 5:00-5:30

Richardson Funeral Service

615 Main St.

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Burial Service –Saturday, October 21st 10:00 am

Washington Chapel Cemetery

7035 W Bennington Rd

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Funeral Service– Saturday, October 21st 11:30 am – Lunch to follow. All are welcome to join.

Janesville United Methodist Church

424 Sycamore St.

Janesville, IA 50647

The family invites everyone immediately following the service on Saturday to the church hall where a meal will be served.

Memorials may be directed to the family to be designated at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Washington Chapel Cemetery

7035 W Bennington Rd
Cedar Falls, IA

Previous Events

Eastern Star Service

OCT **20**. 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Visitation

OCT **20**. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
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Burial

OCT 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Washington Chapel Cemetery
7035 W Bennington Rd
Cedar Falls, IA

Funeral Service

OCT 21. 11:30 AM (CT)

Janesville United Methodist Church
424 Sycamore St.
Janesville, IA 50647

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 19, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marlys Cook.

October 19, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 19, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 18, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 18, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marlys Cook.

October 17, 2023 at 11:10 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 17, 2023 at 11:10 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 17, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marlys Cook.

October 16, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.



October 16, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.



October 15, 2023 at 06:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.



October 15, 2023 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.



October 15, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marlys Cook.*



October 14, 2023 at 03:46 PM



“ *So many memories of Marlys - she and my mom were lifelong friends starting in their early teens. Many of my childhood memories involve the Cook family as we shared camping trips and lots of other fun times with the Janesville crew. Always enjoyed visiting with her and Cecil. As a fairly young girl, I loved reading Bobsey Twins books and she shared some of her books with me. I remember being extremely careful with those books. I'm sure there is quite the reunion going on in heaven about now and somewhere in the midst of it my parents have set up a card table ready for a game of 500. Brad and Gena - wish we could be there but know my thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire Cook family.*

Jan Dewey - October 13, 2023 at 05:55 PM



What great memories Brad and I have been talking about the Janesville crew thanks for sharing. I remember the trip we made to Tennessee to see your family. Great times

Gena Bappe - October 14, 2023 at 11:58 PM



Brad n family was so sorry to hear about your mom! My heart goes out to all of you! It's been along time since Burger King n good ol Don Thode. I've wondered about you all these years ! The good ol days!

Leanne Coonley - October 19, 2023 at 04:05 AM