



Marlys Hughes

December 17, 1928 - February 1, 2026

Marlys Mildred Hughes, 97, of Cedar Falls, passed away on February 1, 2026, at the Hospice House in Waterloo, Iowa.

Marlys was born on December 17, 1928, in rural Cedar Falls, daughter of E. Harvey and Mildred E. (Lamm) Christensen. Marlys grew up on a farm south of Cedar Falls and graduated from Hudson High School in 1946. She was united in marriage to Harlan Hughes on December 28, 1946, at the First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

Marlys is survived by her children, Ron (Suzette) Hughes of Palm Harbor, FL, Howard Hughes of Cedar Falls, Shelly Beeghly of Weldon Spring, MO, and Maureen (Dan) Weichers of Waverly, IA; grandchildren, Lisa, Kristen, Andrew, Leo, Carson, Averi, and Kennedy; great grandchildren, Elizabeth, Sarah, Jacob, Inara, Niall; many nieces and nephews; and her sister Ann Randall.

Marlys was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and sisters Jean Furneaux, Betty O'Brien, and Marjorie Christensen.

A Celebration of Life will be held this summer at St. Tim's Methodist Church in Cedar Falls. Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice, the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, or St. Tim's Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall

GB

“ *What great memories we have as the Robinson/Brown family with the Hughes. Believe we were family friends starting in the late 40's or early 50's. Loved our visits to the farm, etc. So glad we had the tradition of eating Chinese food after our families were grown each New Years Day. Sending hugs and love to Ron, Howard, Shelly, Maureen and families. Keep those wonderful memories alive! Gary and Donna Brown*

Gary & Donna Brown - February 07 at 04:17 PM

LL

“ *Shelly, Maureen, Howard, Ron, and families, I was so sad to see that your mom has left us. She was truly a special lady. I have so many wonderful memories of spending time at the farm - so many sleepovers! I even spent the night before my wedding at the B & B. Of course Marlys made sure everything was absolutely perfect for me - just like old times. She always treated everyone with kindness, and was so gracious. She made God's love visible wherever she was. I know how deep the pain and sadness feels right now. Moms have a special spot that cannot be filled by any other. She will be remembered fondly. - Lynette (Boss) Lender*

Lynette R. Lender - February 04 at 04:11 PM

KL

“ The first time I met Marlys Hughes was almost exactly 50 years ago. Me and my family were taking English language lessons at the time. Marlys was not our teacher but we learned so much from her, over the many years. She came to the ESL classes specifically to meet as many immigrants as she could, so she could help them. She taught us about life in the United States, life on the farm, life in a small city and just about life itself. Marlys and Harlan were such welcoming and warm people, it was just what we needed, in a scary and uncertain time for us. She not only taught us but she was just as interested in learning and listening to us as well. She would have many parties and gatherings at her farm house, her church and other places.

Marlys was always there for us, always. She was our trusted connection to our new country and especially its culture and customs. Marlys and Harlan made the lives of my entire family so much better. Like many immigrants, on rare occasions, we saw the ugly face of racism and rejection. During those times, Marlys was always on our side. She would always show us the best side of humanity. Marlys was very supportive for me and my family members all passing the citizenship test. She was my mother's first and best friend from America. For these and so many more reasons, we can not thank her enough. She will never be forgotten for who she was and what she did for us. She was more than a friend, even more than family, she was an angel on earth. She will forever be in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Kin Long-Chien
Ann Arbor, Michigan
February 4, 2026

Kin Long-Chien - February 04 at 09:33 AM

SS

“ I remember the Hughes' from growing up in Hudson. We spent many a time together when our parents would go on vacation, or their girls would spend time with our family when they would go on vacation. When I would go back up the Cedar Falls area for visits, I would stay at their bed and breakfast, and when they moved into town, I always made sure I stopped in to visit them. Your family will be in our prayers during this difficult time.

Your good friends, Sharon Bennink and Joe Shaw

Sharon Bennink Shaw - February 02 at 09:45 PM

WT

Marlys and Harlan farmed about a mile from where us Sorensen children grew up. I remember how they were so kind to send me a high school graduation card even though I was unable to have a celebration because of my mother's illness, so I sent them a thank you for the card. Marlys still remembered that "thank you" when my husband and I stayed at their bed and breakfast on my 50th birthday; what fun we had reminiscing! She also assisted me with details of Sunnyside rural school #6 that both my dad and she attended on Rancho Rd when I was writing a pictorial story of my life/family growing up. Our sympathies to your family.

Margaret (Sorensen) & Warren Torkelson

Warren Torkelson - February 03 at 02:12 PM

MR

*Hughes family
I was so sorry to see this. I always enjoyed time spent with your family. Your parents were very special. May God comfort you during this time.
Love
Mary Rekers*

Mary Rekers - February 03 at 04:49 PM

MW

*I was so surprised to see Marlys's obituary, but pleased to be able to send condolences. Her family went to the First United Methodist Church when Ron was in the same Sunday School and MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) that my twin brother Marvin and I were in, and she was ALWAYS happy to see us there. She is surely enjoying a wonderful Family Reunion in Heaven. May she rest in peace. Holding you all in my prayers.
Mary Ellen Wheat*

Mary Ellen Wheat - February 04 at 05:10 AM

JL

My 97 1/2 year old mother, Donna Mae Plummer Medwid met Maryls when the country day school closed and Maryls and her sisters were transferred to my mother's elementary school in Hudson. I just came from visiting my mother, now in assisted living in Santa Barbara due to 2 broken hips and now wheelchair bound. She told me Maryls was always so kind and positive. She said she remembers a weekend trip with Maryls to visit one of her older sisters in college. My mother told me the sister had a date that night and that morning, set out the fabric and pattern and sewed herself a dress in one day! I am so sad to have to tell my mother that Maryls is now gone. She was the LAST friend of my mother's from childhood/high school and college. May she R.I.P.

*Jill Medwid-Lewis
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Jill Lewis - February 17 at 05:51 PM