



Mary Jo Dirks

April 2, 1936 - May 19, 2017

CEDAR FALLS-Mary Jo Dirks, 81, of Cedar Falls, died Friday, May 19, 2017 at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.

She was born April 2, 1936, in Black Hawk County, Iowa, the daughter of William and Marcella M. (Schmit) Sadler. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Waterloo in 1953. She married Marvin Lee Dirks May 4, 1955 in Waterloo. He died October 20, 2006.

Mary Jo was employed as a secretary at Cedar Heights Elementary School in Cedar Falls.

Survived by: two daughters, Cindy (Pete) Olson and Kelly (Nick) Evens both of Cedar Falls; six grandchildren, Justin and Courtney Olson, Liz, Sara and Abby Kohagen, and Megan Evens; two sisters, Betty (Lou) Kroenecke of Houston, TX and Marlys (Michael) Lotito of Bonita Springs, FL; and brother, Bill (Mariann) Sadler of Paletine, IL.

Preceded by: daughter, Kim Kohagen; sister, Karen K. Sadler; granddaughter, Kaitlyn Evens; and two nephews, Shane Simmons and J.J. Sadler.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 26, 2017 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls, with interment in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Raymond. Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday at St.

Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls, where there will be a 3 p.m. Rosary and a 7 p.m. Vigil Service. Memorial contributions may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice, Black Hawk County Relay for Life, St.

Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center, or St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Online condolences may be left at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery

Raymond, IA 50667

Previous Events

Rosary

MAY **25**. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Visitation

MAY **25**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Vigil

MAY 25. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3523
<http://saintpatrickcf.org>

Tribute Wall



“ Kelly and family, so sorry for the loss of your Mom. She was a wonderful lady and clearly enjoyed life. What a great school secretary - always helpful and caring. As a new teacher, she "straightened" me out on few things more than once...gotta love her! Thoughts and prayers are with you.
Steve Mark

Steve Mark - May 25, 2017 at 08:41 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Dirks.



May 25, 2017 at 08:35 AM

MM

“*Mary Jo was one terrific lady. Full of fun and laughter. When ever I called Cedar Heights School she would say, " This must be Margaret!" She knew my name was not Margaret but she knew the rest of the story. Kelly was teaching with me at Valley Park and I kept calling her son in law Nick the wrong name. So he dubbed me with the name "Margaret" and rightfully so.. She would laugh and connect me with whoever I called. She was a fun lady. She will be missed by so many of us. Whoever was near her felt joy and love. I know all of you have wonderful memories of Mary Jo and your dad to help you through this difficult tough time. I feel very fortunate to have had your mom in my life. May those wonderful memories give you strength and a lifetime of joy during these tough days. May the arms of the Lord wrap around each of you to give you peace. with sincere sympathy,
Mary Ellen Maynard*

Mary Ellen Maynard - May 24, 2017 at 10:54 PM

 Pauline Garrity

“*Kelly, so sorry for your loss. I remember that your mom would loyally sit in the bleachers at your gymnastics meets. However, she would never watch you on the beam. She would not look up from the time you acknowledged the judges to your dismount. I once asked her why she wouldn't watch beam and she said that she was afraid that you would fall and get hurt. The love of a mother, so strong that even the possibility of you getting hurt caused her pain. I believe that if your mom could tell you anything now it might go like this, " Kelly (and Cindy) know this. I am back in the arms of your dad where I always belonged. I may be gone from you on earth, but I am wih you always. I am your mother and I love you always." With heartfelt sympathy, Pauline Odekirk Garrity.*

Pauline Garrity - May 24, 2017 at 10:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Dirks.*



May 23, 2017 at 09:56 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I will keep your family in my prayers.*

Sandy Schatzberg

Sandy Schatzberg - May 23, 2017 at 05:31 PM



“ *Mary Jo was one of Cedar Valley Hospice many wonderful volunteers. She gave comfort to many patients and family members when she worked at the Hospice Home. Her smile made you feel as if you had been her friend for years. She had a beautiful give of caring and compassion for others. She will be missed.*

*Paula Steimel,
Manager of Volunteer and Support Services*

Paula Steimel - May 23, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss--I met MaryJo in the school system and then come to find out we were related by marriage--SHE was a AWESOME LADY*

Christie twaites - May 23, 2017 at 09:55 AM

DF

“ Cousin Mary Jo was 3 1/2 years older than me, and my parents had moved to California after they married in 1938, but before they moved back to Iowa permanently in 1948, our mothers had us be pen pals. I'll always remember that and also the great admiration I will always have of her mother, Aunt Sally, for the great job she did of raising 4 very young daughters and a son at a time when there was no government help. They are all a testament to her great parenting. I will miss her.

Don Frost.

Don Frost - May 23, 2017 at 09:43 AM

JZ

“ I too worked with Mary Jo at Gilkey house in Cedar Falls when I was still in high school. As a young kid trying to "learn the ropes" she was a great lady to look up to. Condolences to the family, go gettem Mary Jo!

Janet Shields Zeien

Janet Shields Zeien - May 22, 2017 at 12:53 PM

TO

Our condolences go out you the Dirks family. She is reunited with Marv and her daughter and granddaughter. Love to Cindy and Kelly. Toni Olson (Wilkins)

Toni Olson - May 23, 2017 at 06:44 AM

MB

“ Mary Jo and I worked together in the old Gilkey House (CF School administration offices) in 1971--I was only 20, but she was such a delightful, funny lady and made going to work each morning fun! As the years progressed and I was then a young stay-at-home mom to two children, Mary Jo was the secretary at Cedar Heights Elementary where they attended. I could always count on her to bail me out if I forgot to send lunch money that morning!! What a dear, dear lady she was and I will always remember her with a smile and a chuckle!!! My condolences to you and your family.

Mary-Sue Bartlett

Mary-Sue Bartlett - May 22, 2017 at 09:10 AM

SA

“ Our deepest sympathy to Mary Jo's family and friends.

St. Mary's High School Alumni - May 22, 2017 at 12:17 AM