



Ruth V. Hovelson

December 23, 1934 - March 9, 2019

Ruth Vial Hovelson, age 84, died Saturday, March 9th, of complications of Parkinson's Disease and a fractured hip. She was born Dec. 23, 1934 on a farm near Laurens, Iowa, the daughter of Ralph and Flora Vial.

Ruth attended Ware Consolidated School in Pocahontas County, Iowa through ninth grade. She then attended Laurens High School, graduating in 1952. She enrolled at Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC), now University of Northern Iowa, where she received a two-year elementary teaching degree. She taught fifth and sixth grades at Alta, Iowa from 1954 to 1956 when she married Jack Hovelson on July 29, 1956 in Laurens. The couple met at ISTC in 1953.

Ruth taught one year at Orange Township elementary school before the couple moved to Webster City, Iowa where her husband taught for two years. The couple's first daughter, Holly, was born in Webster City. The Hovelsons moved in 1959 to Fort Dodge, Iowa where Jack was a newspaper reporter. Their second child, daughter Lisa, was born there and the family moved shortly after to Waterloo where Jack worked as a reporter for the Waterloo Courier.

In 1972, the family moved to Cedar Falls. Ruth was an Avon representative for seven years and then later became active as a member and volunteer in several organizations, including the Sartori Hospital Auxiliary, 19th Center Club, PEO Chapter OV, First United Methodist Church, Church Women United, and Cedar Falls Womans Club where she served as its president for

two years. In 1995 she was a recipient of the Mayors' Volunteer Award for her service to the Cedar Falls community.

Survivors include her husband, Jack Hovelson, who resides at Windhaven Assisted Living (Western Home) in Cedar Falls, her daughters Holly (Don) Smith, of Powhatan, Virginia, Lisa Richards, of Surprise, Arizona, granddaughters Meghan Resler of Baltimore, Maryland, Kalene (Barrett) Resler of Washington, D.C., and Lexi Richards of Surprise Arizona, a brother Robert (Donna) Vial of Des Moines, a sister-in-law Lynne (Jim) Willey of The Woodlands, Texas, and several nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, brother Howard, and two nieces. Funeral services will be 11am Thursday at the First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be from 4-7pm Wednesday, at Richardson Funeral Service, and also one hour prior to the service at church. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery, Cedar Falls.

Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church or the Cedar Falls Woman's Club.

Richardson Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
<http://aboutfirst.com>

Burial

MAR 14. 1:15 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

BT

“ Jack, condolences beyond words for the passing of Ruth. But, do remember you old Meals on Wheels friend, that you are one of my most favorite people. Bill Teaford, teaford@cfu.net

Bill Teaford - April 05, 2019 at 09:55 PM

JP

“ To the family of Ruth Vial Hovelson- Miss Vial was my favorite teacher by far in elementary school. I was fortunate to have her for both 5th and 6th grades. She was a wonderful teacher, and I have had many to compare to her being a University Professor and long-time teacher myself. She was very motivating and brought out the best in many of us. I received notice of her passing from a classmate who shares my views. It is unfortunate that I lost track of her, because I would have liked to tell her personally just how much that I appreciated her contribution to my life. I do hope that her husband and children are able to read this so that they will know just how special this lady was to a bunch of kids in Alta. I think that she knew how much we liked her and marveled at her teaching talents. Thank you for adding joy to her life. John A. Soderquist

John A. Soderquist, Ph.D. - March 22, 2019 at 05:28 PM

AK

“ Jack and family,
I had such joy working with Ruth on so many volunteer projects. She became such great friend. She will be deeply missed. Thoughts and prayers. Karolyn Ketter

Allison ketter - March 17, 2019 at 08:51 AM

MS

“ I remember working with Ruth on CWU celebrations . She was always helpful in planning the events and made sure her part was carried out well. She was very dedicated to the groups she belonged too. She was a positive force and helped move the organizations forward.

My sympathy to Jack and family. What a wonderful blessing to know she is in a better place and free from a body which didn't work anymore.

Marcia Street

Marcia Street - March 14, 2019 at 10:22 PM

LB

“ So sorry to learn of Ruth's passing, Jack. God bless you and your family.

--- Larry Ballard

Larry Ballard - March 13, 2019 at 04:06 PM

SC

“ Condolences to Jack and family on your loss of Ruth. She was a wonderful person in so many ways—cheerful, supportive, full of joy and good humor. We were all lucky to have her for so many years.

Scott Cawelti - March 13, 2019 at 08:19 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth V. Hovelson.



March 12, 2019 at 11:44 PM

MS

“ *Jack and family:
I am so so sorry for your loss. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Ruth will be missed by so many!
Blessings
Michele Smith*

michele smith - March 12, 2019 at 09:41 PM

ML

“ *Ruth was so kind. She welcomed me warmly into two organizations. She was an excellent role model due to her sincere interest in others and her commitment to her work.
Mary Lyman*

Mary Lyman - March 12, 2019 at 09:06 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth V. Hovelson.*



March 12, 2019 at 07:54 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth V. Hovelson.*



March 11, 2019 at 07:49 PM

CF

“ *Charlie and Peggy, Eric, Aaron, Jon and families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ruth V. Hovelson.*



Charlie and Peggy, Eric, Aaron, Jon and families - March 11, 2019 at 07:36 PM

GR

“ *Dear Jack and family - I will always treasure the times we all visited together, discussing family history and enjoying you and Ruth's gracious hospitality - now we are one less, but rejoice in knowing she now enjoys life free of the crosses she had to bear down here, I will miss her ready smile, but look forward to the future when we are all together again. See you soon - Love Gayle (Nowack) Rector and family*

Gayle Rector - March 11, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruth V. Hovelson.*



March 11, 2019 at 12:00 PM

BD

“ Oh, Jack, Holly, and Lisa. There is a hole in my heart today. I remember so many enjoyable times together, sharing Jack's fabulous barbecue - especially the kohlrabi, and years of wonderful conversations. I so admired Ruth's work in her church and community. I'm sure many friends are grieving her loss. I pray you feel God's love and comforting arms around you now. Much love,
Bev Duffy

Bev Duffy - March 11, 2019 at 10:41 AM

TE

“ Terri lit a candle in memory of Ruth V. Hovelson



Terri - March 10, 2019 at 03:21 PM

TE

“ So many good memories of visits to the farm ...our thoughts are with you Jack, Holly, Lisa and families. Bob & Terri

Terri - March 10, 2019 at 03:20 PM