



## Florence Mae Russell

March 24, 1929 - May 11, 2020

Florence Mae Russell, 91, of Clear Lake, went to be with the Lord Monday, May 11, 2020, at MercyOne North Iowa Hospice in Mason City.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2020, at Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, 101 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, with Rev. Scott Kozisek officiating. Burial will be at Clear Lake Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Family suggests memorial contributions to MercyOne North Iowa Hospice in Mason City or Central Gardens in Clear Lake.

Florence was born March 24, 1929, the daughter of Edward and Edith (Sittig) Klute in Niles, MI. A graduate of Niles High School, she attended and graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana with a teacher's certificate.

Florence moved to Iowa and taught grade school in Superior, IA, where she met the love of her life, Daren Russell, at a basketball game at Arnold's Park. They were married on June 3, 1951. Florence worked beside her husband at Max I Walkers in Council Bluffs before moving to Clear Lake and bought the Cottage Cleaners in 1970; which they owned and operated until they retired in 1984.

Florence enjoyed camping, traveling, sewing, cross-stitching, embroidery and spending time with her family. As a teacher, she insisted that her students, children and grandchildren read, and was always giving books as gifts. She was called the card lady and enjoyed sending cards to everyone. She also liked embroidering quilts with her daughters and donating them to the Caring Pregnancy Center, MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family members and several friends. She also was an avid angel collector.

Florence is survived by her children, Pamela (David) Grill, Steve Russell and Susan (Gary) Swartwood; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Bea Matchus; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Daren in 2005; grandson, Sgt. William Barnett; great-granddaughters, Morgan and Lilly; and two brothers, Martin and Karl.

# Cemetery

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## Clear Lake Cemetery

N. 20th St.

Clear Lake, IA, 50428

# Events

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**MAY** **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

**15**

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Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel

310 1st Avenue North, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

**MAY** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**15**

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Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel

310 1st Avenue North, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

# Comments

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“ Pam, Steve and Family,

I will always remember your mother as a lady with a pleasant disposition and smile for everyone. She was a great huger and encourager to all that she came in contact with! I am sorry for you loss but happy that she is now with her beloved husband. She was one of those people who valued the simple things in life and lived to the fullest every single day. God Bless as you grieve her passing. In Christ, Laurel Bram

**Laurel Bram** - May 16, 2020 at 12:30 PM

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“ We know Pam and Steve so especially want them to know we are sad about their loss. Jim and Mary Lou Rogers (Marlys Van Horn's daughter).



**Mary Lou Rogers** - May 15, 2020 at 10:31 PM

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“ Shirley Peters lit a candle in memory of Florence Mae Russell



**Shirley Peters** - May 14, 2020 at 01:36 PM

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“ Shirley Peters sent a virtual gift in memory of Florence Mae Russell



**Shirley Peters** - May 14, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ Paul and I were heartbroken when we read that Flo had passed. She was a great neighbor and friend to us for years. Always had a smile, a hug, an open door and full pot of coffee for me and anybody else that would stop by to see her. She always had to keep her hands busy with her needle and thread. Blessings and comfort to her family. Love you all.

**Shirley** - May 14, 2020 at 01:35 PM

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“ I met Florence Russell because her daughter and I were best friends in school. I often referred to her as my "Other Mom". She was a kind, caring, talented, hard working lady that I never heard complain or talk badly about anyone. Her smile and sweet accepting demeanor always made me feel welcomed and loved. She will be greatly missed, and I hope her beautiful example of living will never be forgotten. My her example increase among us. I am sure her love touched and influenced more people than we will ever know, this side of Heaven.  
Camille Patterson

**Camille Patterson** - May 13, 2020 at 03:15 PM

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“ Such a nice lady with a wonderful family  
Always enjoyed talking to her at cottage cleaners and got to see her and family at cabin coffee a few times. Heaven got a great lady

**Jane ramon** - May 12, 2020 at 01:37 PM