



Gayle Maxine Stokes

June 8, 1944 - October 18, 2018

Gayle Maxine Stokes, 74, of Ventura, passed away Thursday, October 18, 2018 at Hospice of North Iowa, Mason City.

Per her wishes Gayle has been cremated, a celebration of life will be held 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 25, 2018, at Lakeview Community Center City Park in Clear Lake, 10 North Lakeview Dr., 50428.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the family, 320 Oriole Court. Tiffin, Iowa 52340.

Gayle Maxine (Westcott) Stokes was born June 8, 1944, daughter of Rex and Esther (Jacobsen) Westcott, who farmed north of Clear Lake.

She spent all her school years at Ventura and graduated with the class of 1962. She was very active in school playing Guard with the Basketball team that went to the state tournament in 1961. She was chosen as the Homecoming Queen her Senior year. She later attended AIB in Des Moines, working towards a secretary degree.

She married Gordon Stokes on February 17, 1965. Gordy served in the Army and was stationed in Freising, Germany, near Munich. She joined him a month after their marriage, still just 20 years old, to start the adventure of a lifetime! They built two homes, one in Clear Lake and after they sold that, they built one on the home farm.

Gayle had a long resume, she worked at many different businesses in the area, including United Sugar.

Their two sons were the light of her life, Shane and Christian. The boys were involved in many activities. Gayle and Gordy were always there to cheer them on and were so proud. She and Gordy had many friends, many good friends, if there were no friends when they arrived at their destination, they always had new friends when they left.

Gayle liked to drink Coffee, play bridge, do crosswords, watch the birds, read and watch tv. She was a great dancer and loved music. One of her favorite songs was "I Am Woman Hear Me Roar", by Helen Reddy, and this song truly fit her personality. Gayle was not timid. She had many strong opinions and was outspoken yet endearing. Gayle developed many meaningful relationships while at the care center in Garner. She often spoke of how grateful she was to have such great friends.

She is survived by her son, Shane (Dawn) Stokes, and their children, Brittani and TJ

Woods and their son, Talon; Hunter (Tayler Foster) Stokes; Hanna (Mitchell Stopko) Stokes and Brienna (Ellie Dixon) DeShaw; son, Christian Stokes, his children Alyson and twin sons, Tristan and Colby; brother, Richard Westcott; nieces, Anne Happel, Sarah Willis, Margaux Foster, Danielle Westcott and nephew, Brook Westcott.
She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gordon Stokes; sister, Phyllis Willis.

Comments



“ Gayle and I were best friends from 5th grade through high school. I have wonderful memories of times with both Gayle and Phyllis. Spending nights at their farm, cheerleading, working at the barrel, double dating. Gayle taught me to dance. She led and we were great together! We never had an argument that I can remember. I couldn't have stood to be without the laughter and bond we shared. She had great charisma and I loved being her side kick. We weren't always in touch during our family growing years because I moved to Missouri, but it was always easy to catch up. We knew each other so well. I have visited Gayle nearly every visit back to Ventura in the past 10 years or so. Gayle hasn't forgotten to call me or my husband on our birthdays for just as long. My last visit was October 6th. I could tell she was more tired and uncomfortable but she was warmly welcoming. I want Shane and Chris to know that our last visit was about how much she loved her grandchildren. She was thrilled to tell me Ellie had been chosen homecoming queen as a sophomore! I loved seeing the pictures! She talked about the wonder of Hunter sitting next to her on the bed and telling her how great he thought she was. “I love them all so much she told me”. She was an inspiration in the way she continued to live life and honor friendships under very difficult circumstances. My best to her much loved family
Nancy (Ransom) Gerardi

Nancy (Ransom) Gerardi - October 21, 2018 at 06:01 PM



“ Wow. Where to start. Gayle lit up every room she entered. She was so happy and fun. I remember her and Gordy at every sporting event cheering on Shane and Chris and the Ventura Vikings. People gravitated to Gayle. My prayers are with the family. May God wrap His loving arms around your family. May you find peace knowing Gordy and Gayle are together again cheering you on. They are with you with every beat of your heart and every step you take. God bless,

Becky Hill Friedrich - October 20, 2018 at 09:20 AM



“ Gayle was one of the sweetest people I ever met. And she was such a good friend!! I will miss visiting with her and reading to her every week. My sympathy to you, Shane and Chris and families. There's no more pain. God bless

Nancy Haan - October 20, 2018 at 11:56 AM



“ Gayle was a treasure; open, honest, loving and giving. She always focused on other people, reminding them how much she cared. More than once she saw me through some very difficult times and brought me comfort. She was always there for her friends.

I cherish the memories of all the wonderful times I spent with Gayle, sitting at her kitchen

table or mine, drinking coffee and sharing thoughts and laughter. And celebrating good times with her and Gordy from the time they began dating.

We are all blessed to have had Gayle in our lives and she will be dearly missed.

My heartfelt sympathy to all of her family. My thoughts are with you.

Lynda Schumacher

Lynda Schumacher - October 21, 2018 at 12:28 PM



“ So sorry and sad to hear of Gayles passing. And it's true she and Gordy made friends wherever they went. Two sparky personalities with huge hearts of gold. I'll always remember the time Gordy said he had some deer meat for me because he needed to clean out the freezer.(figured a couple pkgs.) When he and Gayle brought it to me.. It was a cooler full! Gayle and her sister Phyllis were the two nicest gals to ever grace the halls of Ventura High School. Genuine sincere girls. Such sweet women. I miss "batting the breeze" with both as we did when I'd run into them somewhere. May your own memories bring you comfort.

Penny Kaster - October 21, 2018 at 12:54 PM