



Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf

November 4, 1946 - December 11, 2018

Judy Hilgendorf, an English teacher and creative writing enthusiast, left the task of sharing her life story to those who loved her most, her family.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 17, 2018, at First Congregational Church, 923 Buddy Holly Pl, Clear Lake, with Pastor Harlan Seri officiating. Burial will be at Clear Lake Cemetery in Clear Lake.

Visitation will be from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16, 2018, at Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, 101 N. 4th St., Clear Lake and an hour prior to the service at the church.

Please wear a touch of gold sparkle to celebrate Judy.

An annual "Why I Love Clear Lake" creative writing essay contest will be established in Judy's name. Please direct memorials to her family, 212 12th Ave. S., Clear Lake, IA 50428.

Judy was a lover of life, a life-long learner, a fashionista, a real estate agent, a teacher, a world traveler and a one-of-a kind gem, spreading her zest for life everywhere she went. Judith Jane Hilgendorf was born on November 4, 1946 in Charles City, IA, to Lyle Witzel and Wilma Teeple Witzel. Proud of growing up on the family farm outside of Rudd, she enjoyed spending time at her Grandpa Wilbur and Grandma Christine's farmhouse, riding horses with her cousins, and attending country school. She graduated from Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree at the University of Iowa.

On the night Judy met her husband-to-be, in true Judy fashion, she gave her suitor a fake name, requiring Jim to do some investigative work to earn a first date. Marrying on May 6, 1972 at the Rudd United Methodist Church, a 46-year long love story ensued. They made their home on the Cedar River in Charles City, then Mason City, and have enjoyed the last 23 years on the water in Clear Lake. Whether they were at the Leaf Watchers Convention

on the Mississippi, “Dancing in the Moonlight” on their pontoon boat or working side-by-side on their real estate and home building business, they did it together.

Judy led by example and taught her children, Darcy and David, and her many students, valuable life lessons.

- Life is a three-letter word, ASK
- Live the Golden Rule
- Carpe Diem
- Love God with ALL your HEART

Judy’s talent of creative writing played a role in one of her favorite hobbies, entering essay contents. Through the years, her writing earned over 20 grand prizes -- a gold convertible, trips to the Ellen Show, the NCAA Final Four, and Super Bowl 50 – just to name a few.

For Judy, every occasion was always an opportunity to celebrate people and life. From hosting the annual Hilgendorf Family Sauerkraut Party to participating in events like the Winter Dance Party at the Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake’s 4th of July festivities, and Christmas by the Lake, she added her own special flair, creating lasting memories for all those who loved her.

Two peas in a pod, her grandson Hudson was her traveling partner, lead pinwheel spinner, and her greatest pride and joy. All of Judy’s best qualities will live on forever through him.

While Judy always sparkled on the outside – with an impeccable sense of style, an impressive high heel collection and an outfit for every occasion – it was her heart of gold and unique ability to make everyone feel special that truly touched all those who knew her.

SHE SMILED, SHE LAUGHED, SHE LOVED, SHE ENCOURAGED. GO AND DO LIKEWISE.

Judy is survived by her husband, Jim Hilgendorf of Clear Lake; two children, Darcy (Darian) Hala of Eden Prairie, MN and David (fiancé, Taline) Hilgendorf of Dripping Springs, TX; grandson, Hudson Hala; two sisters, Diane Witzel of Eagan, MN and Roberta (Alan) Russell of Boise, ID; brother-in-law, Bill Hilgendorf, Lake Tahoe, NV; nephew, Jared LaBounty (Michelle), great nephew, Sam LaBounty; and niece, Adrienne Russell.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister-in-law Mary Hilgendorf.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

16

Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel
101 N. 4th Street, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

DEC **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

17

First Congregational Church
923 Buddy Holly Pl, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

Comments



“ Jim, Sending our deepest sympathies and prayers to you and your family. We remember Judy's beautiful smile. She will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her. What a beautiful person she was! Hugs, Tom and Mary Acker

Tom Acker - January 15 at 04:21 PM



“ Judy was my DEAR friend. We traveled to Europe together many years ago. It was a great adventure. We had many good times. I'm sure everyone who knew her will miss her. She was always doing special things for those she loved. Judy and Jim were such an awesome couple. We had great fun when they visited us earlier this year.
I cherished all my memories, she will not be forgotten.

Susan Hay

Susan Hay - December 20, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 17, 2018 at 09:55 AM



“ Our sincere sympathy to you! Judy left a legacy that we'll all cherish. Fred and Linda Muth

Linda Muth - December 16, 2018 at 11:12 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 16, 2018 at 10:44 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 16, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ With sympathy, Travis and Abby Willard and family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



With sympathy, Travis and Abby Willard and family - December 15, 2018 at 07:50 PM



“ Claudia & Andrea Hopkey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



Claudia & Andrea Hopkey - December 15, 2018 at 06:19 PM



“ Diane—I was so sorry to learn of the passing of your sister, Judy. I'm praying Our Heavenly Father will surround you with his Love and Peace.
Hugs, Marilyn (Kolarich) Gleason

Marilyn (Kolarich) Gleason - December 15, 2018 at 02:22 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 15, 2018 at 02:18 PM



“ Judy truly lived life to its fullest and then some. She exuded happiness, fun, and love. We should all take a lesson from her book. I often quote her philosophy, “life’s a three letter word, ask” which I learned from Darcy. I guess you can say the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. Prayers for Darcy, Jim, Hudson and family. Thinking of you all.

michelle yovanovich - December 15, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 15, 2018 at 12:41 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.





“ Judy made me smile on the inside as much as she made me smile on the outside.
Jerry M

Jerome Myhre - December 14, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ Judy sparkled, not only in dress but in her glowing personality. The times we spent with Judy were enlightening...she will long be remembered.

Jerry & Linda Myhre - December 14, 2018 at 07:16 PM



“ Linda L Nelson lit a candle in memory of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf



Linda L Nelson - December 14, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ When Judy was at our office and ordered a Limo for my birthday!! What a shock when they picked me up,(had the worse dress on but didn't get a chance to change) went bar hopping and at the end met our husbands and had dinner. best treat of my life

Pat Rodriguez - December 13, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Jim. I can't imagine you without her. My sympathies.

Carol Schober - December 14, 2018 at 03:17 PM



“ Your friends at Amwood Homes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



Your friends at Amwood Homes - December 13, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ Judy gave me my first Dr. Pepper, she had a little stash in the basement refrigerator and she always told us to help ourselves. The best story I can tell about Judy - Christmas Eve 1991 or 92, Jim and Judy were out delivering their gifts and bringing Good Cheer to their friends. I was just home from Rochester and my brothers and I were standing around a cardboard box on the steps outside Mom and Dad's. When Jim wheeled up in the Old Oldsmobile, and Judy jumps out with a bottle of Christmas Cheer for the family and says "Merry Christmas Walks, Merry Christmas Walks, what's in the box, what's in the box. She walked up looked in the box with such anticipation and joy only to see our long treasured friend Tuffy, who passed away the night before. Not skipping a beat, with mortified look on her face, she grabbed Jim's arm and in the house she went, Merry Christmas Walks. While wiping tears from our eyes my brothers and I looked at each other, smiles slowly grew and we busted out laughing. That really could have been a bummer on our Holiday, but Judy picked us up like she always did with her undeniable Joy. We said Merry Christmas Walks, whats in the box with every present, every chance we had that night and into the next day.

I have soo many memories of Judy, but what strikes me the most about her...is not her flamboyance that is undeniable, not her ability to shop, or win contest, her generosity, or true genuine spirit. But her love for Jim! Man, when a woman stands behind her man and shows everyone he is the one. Its awesome!

Darcy, Daver and Jim. I truly cherish all those memories of our two families spending so much time together on the pontoon, trips to the river, dinners, nights out! She will be missed. Love you guys! ~Daren Walk

Daren Walk - December 13, 2018 at 01:03 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 13, 2018 at 12:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Judith "Judy" Jane Hilgendorf.



December 13, 2018 at 11:24 AM



“ Jim and family - I have so many fond memories of the days Judy and I were good friends when Nicole and Darcy were toddlers. She was a beautiful person and always loved having a good time. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Jeanne fullard

jeanne fullard - December 12, 2018 at 06:16 PM