



## Mary Dolores Benish

October 29, 1921 - January 25, 2020

Mary Dolores Benish, 98, of Mason City, died Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Country Meadow Place in Mason City.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at Epiphany Parish Holy Family Catholic Church, 714 N. Adams Ave., with Rev. Neil Manternach officiating. Burial will be at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery in Mason City.

Visitation will be from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel, 126 3rd St. NE, Mason City, where a Rosary will be said at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Scriptural Wake Service.

Mary Dolores Wallbaum Benish was born on October 29, 1921, in Mason City, Iowa in her grandmother's home. Mary was the first grandchild born to both sets of grandparents. When Mary was nine months old, her father, Ernest Wallbaum, passed away. She and her mother, Mary Virginia, lived with her maternal grandparents in Mason City until Virginia married her second husband, Louis Gabriel Fernette and they moved to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Mary has great memories of her life on the Mississippi River. She had many aunts and uncles, cousins and siblings who would often get together in a big group.

Mary graduated from Prairie du Chien High School and married her high school sweetheart, Raymond Frank Benish. After Raymond went into the service, she and their firstborn daughter, Linda, moved back to Mason City to care for Mary's grandparents. Raymond returned from the service and they made their life in Mason City.

Mary worked at Montgomery Wards and stayed there until it closed. She also was a census taker in 1960, when census takers had to go door to door. Mary reminisced that she would like to go to the homes over the noon hour because her favorite soap opera would be on and she would be invited in for coffee and watch. She also worked at the polling stations during elections, which she enjoyed immensely.

Mary was well known for her sewing acumen. She made prom dresses, wedding dresses, bridesmaids dresses and most all of her children's clothing. She went into business with her stepfather making Barbie doll furniture and doll clothing.

Mary was active in Holy Family Catholic Church. Her faith has always been an important part of her life. Her children and grandchildren would often telephone her and ask her to pray for them. They all believed she had a special pipeline to God! Her last Christmas gift to them was a rosary in their birthstones so "they could pray for her." Mary was active in her church circle and often hosted them in her home. She made many friends there.

Mary was also a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Leader for years. She enjoyed being around the young people and sharing her wisdom. Even now, children who were in her troops, remember her as their Den mother and Leader.

Mary was the joy in every situation. If you ask anyone, every person who has ever been around Mary for very long will tell you what a wonderful person she was. The workers and residents of the assisted living places where she resided in her later years would all tell how much they loved her.

Mary and Raymond had 7 children together. She likes to tell the story that she would wait until the children were 5 years old and going to school before going back to work. It wouldn't be too long before she was pregnant again! Mary is survived by 6 of her children – Linda Louise Boss, Thomas Edward Benish, Judith Ann (Patrick) Heller, Edward John (Pam) Benish, Mary Lynn (Roger) Timko and Laura Ann Quintero. Her son, Stephen Jay, passed away in 1953 at 6 months old.

She also had 12 grandchildren – every one of them proclaiming that he or she was grandma's favorite - Michael (Alisa) Phillips, Kari Phillips (Devang Shah), Lisa Benish (Kevin Stach), Angela Heller, Meredith (Jeff) Steinfeldt, Leslie (Gautham) Ubale, Benjamin (Michelle) McCollum, Joseph (Emily) McCollum, Mary Rose (Robert) Ivey, Natalie Quintero and Robert Quintero. Mary's grandson, Adam Benish, passed away in 2008.

Mary has 13 great grandchildren, Kayleigh Phillips, Gregory Phillips, Gabriela Maria Sanchez Heller, Naomi Forslund, Drew Steinfeldt, Patricia Steinfeldt, Abel Steinfeldt, Ravindra Ubale, Simone Ubale, MacKenzie Ubale, Peyton McCollum, Tate McCollum and Grace McCollum.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Raymond Frank Benish, her infant son, Stephen Jay, her grandson, Adam Benish, a son-in-law, W. Andrew Boss and 3 brothers,

Patrick, Michael and Jerry Fernette.

She is survived not only by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren but also by her sister, Virginia Lou White, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary's smile, warmth and faith will be missed!

# Cemetery

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## Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery

1224 South Washington  
Mason City, IA,

# Events

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**JAN** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

**28**

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Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapel  
126 Third Street Northeast, Mason City, IA, US,  
50401

**JAN** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:30AM

**29**

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Epiphany Parish Holy Family Catholic Church  
714 N Adams Ave, Mason City, IA, US, 50401

# Comments

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“ Linda, Tom, Judy, Eddie, Mary and Laurie,  
I'm thinking of you and sending love and prayers at this sad time. I have so many happy memories of Aunt Loll, especially from times spent at your home in Mason City in the summer. She was always so cheerful, loving and fun to be around! I will always remember her with love and affection and i know her love and the many memories will remain with you now and forever.  
Love,  
Bonnie and Craig Johnsen

**Bonnie L Johnsen** - January 29, 2020 at 12:21 PM

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“ Bennish family, sorry for the loss of your mother. Keeping you in our thoughts. David and Sherlyn Klatt

**David Klatt** - January 29, 2020 at 10:04 AM

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“ I have very fond memories of Mrs. Benish. I had many sleepovers with Linda as young girls and Dolores was always like a second mom to me. May she rest in peace and many condolences for the Benish family.



**Beverly Angell** - January 29, 2020 at 09:55 AM

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“ To Linda, Tom, and the Benish siblings  
Your Mom was a great Girl Scout leader, (thank you, Dolores!)... cheerful, kind, and encouraging....and so pretty! Her beautiful obituary summarizes her rich and full life and the warmth, fun, and humor she radiated. She never seemed to age. Indeed she will be missed....peace to you all.  
from Sharon Lansing O'Neill (Holy Family, class of 1961)

Sharon Lansing O'Neill - January 28, 2020 at 04:39 PM

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“ 183 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels - January 28, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ My Mom was a lovely lady!!!  
**Judith Heller** - February 03, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ Mary and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother, she looks so lovely and vibrant in this photo. I wish for peace and comfort to you at this difficult time. Colleen Flaherty



Colleen Flaherty - January 28, 2020 at 08:17 AM

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“ Mary and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I remember baking chocolate chip cookies at the Benish house after school. Your mother was always so kind to us. She shared her secret recipe for the best cookies: Use 1/2 butter and 1/2 Crisco for the dough. Still the best ever!

Gina Lovejoy - January 27, 2020 at 09:52 PM



“ They are still the best of the best cookies!

Mary Timko - January 27, 2020 at 10:39 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Dolores Benish.



January 27, 2020 at 07:09 PM

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Dolores Benish.



January 27, 2020 at 04:12 PM

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“ Mike and Becky Fernette purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Dolores Benish.



Mike and Becky Fernette - January 27, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ Class of 1975 Friends purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Dolores Benish.



**Class of 1975 Friends** - January 26, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ Ed and family, sorry for your loss.

**Steve Rowe** - January 26, 2020 at 06:36 AM