



Susan Marie Miller

April 03, 1943 - July 11, 2023

Susan Marie Purcell Gaffney Miller, age 80, of Lake Mills, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the Lake Mills Care Center.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, July 17, 2023 at Salem Lutheran Church, 401 S. Lake St. in Lake Mills with Pastor Bill Peters officiating.

Visitation will be on Sunday, July 16, 2023 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Schott Funeral Homes-Mittelstadt Chapel, 902 E. Main St. in Lake Mills, and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Burial will be in Brush Point Cemetery, rural Fertile, Iowa.

Sue's service will be livestreamed on the Schott Funeral Home website. Simply go to www.schottfuneralhomes.com, click on Susan Miller's page, go to the "Tribute Wall" and you will find the link for the webcast.

Susan Marie Purcell was born on April 3, 1943 at Irish Hospital in Forest City, Iowa to Glen and Marcella (Brue) Purcell. She was baptized and confirmed at the Fertile Lutheran Church, attended school in Fertile, and graduated from Fertile High School in 1961. She enjoyed all sports, music, band, plays, etc. and was nominated as Fertile Band Queen at the Band Festival in Mason City.

She went on to attend the University of Iowa her freshman year, where she was an outstanding student in both fencing and bowling class, returning to Mason City for summer school. Sue ultimately graduated from Mason City Junior College (NIACC) in 1963.

On September 7, 1963, Sue was married to Thomas Hayes Gaffney at the Fertile Lutheran Church, and they had two children: Jamie Sue and John Thomas. The family lived in Mason City, Clear Lake, Oelwein, Fairfield, Ottumwa and Waterloo, Iowa before moving to Forest City, Iowa in 1968. Tom was the Director of Corporate Credit at Winnebago Industries before dying on March 5, 1976 from a cerebral aneurysm.

Sue was united in marriage with Dennis K. "Deke" Miller on July 22, 1978 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, Iowa. They raised their children in Forest City before moving to Lake Mills (Rice Lake) in March of 2000.

Sue worked at Dr. R.W. Hynes dental office as a dental assistant for 13 years and then at Winnebago Industries as a parts administrator for 23 years before retiring in 2007. She is a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills, and Rice Lake Golf & Country Club. She enjoyed her home, and watching the birds and wildlife. Other interests include cooking and entertaining family and friends, golf and her bridge club in Forest City for 30-some years, working in her yard and hosta gardens, and decorating her home for each season and holiday.

Deke and Sue loved to travel, especially enjoying the three Caribbean cruises and four trips to Hawaii with her siblings. They also owned a weekend cottage in Waterville, Minnesota for 19 years where they enjoyed all the lake activities with family and friends.

Now, if you just read this obituary, and you really knew Sue, you would know that Sue did everything with zest! She didn't just cook for her family and friends...she made it her mission to feed and overfeed everyone at every get-together. FOOD=LOVE and it was never work for her. She was born a party planner! From appetizers to main dishes, Christmas parties to bridge games, no one can compare to Sue.

Survivors include her husband Dennis K. "Deke" Miller of Lake Mills; daughter Jamie Sue (Bruce) Iler of Panora, IA; son John Thomas (Carol) Gaffney of Robins, IA; step-son Richard Allen (Joni) Miller of Forest City, IA; six grandchildren, Jillian Siehlmann, Joe Siehlmann, Luke Gaffney, Gwen Gaffney, Marissa Miller and Jenna Miller; a sister Sandy Jenkins of Forest City, IA; two brothers, Robert (Jan) Purcell of Clear Lake, IA; Richard N. (Sharon) Purcell of Roseville, MN; brother- and sister-in-law Ron and Jean Miller of Joice, IA; a sister-in-law Geraldine Gaffney of Harker Heights, TX; and many dear nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents Glen and Marcella Purcell; in-laws Walter (Bud) & Kay Gaffney, C.D. "Bing" & Velma Miller, and Donna Miller; husband Thomas Gaffney; a sister Sharon Daniels Blummer; and a brother-in-law Lanny K. Jenkins.

Thank you for supporting our family and for loving Sue. Please put your feet up, change into some comfortable clothing like an "Armorall" shirt and a pair of "thongs." These are what we affectionately call "Sue-isms." And don't forget to grab a snack because you must be hungry.

Cemetery



BRUSH POINT CEMETERY

HWY 9 East,
Hanlontown, IA 50444

Events



VISITATION

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Mittelstadt Funeral
Home 902 East Main
Street, Lake Mills, IA
50450



VISITATION

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Salem Lutheran
Church 401 South
Lake Street, Lake Mills,
IA 50450



FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 AM

Salem Lutheran
Church 401 South
Lake Street, Lake Mills,
IA 50450
