



## Shirley J. Sturges

June 19, 2015

Shirley J. Sturges, 79, Mason City, died Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30 am, Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at Epiphany Parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church, 302 5th St. SE, Mason City, Iowa. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church. Inurnment will be in Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Shirley for her favorite charities. Other arrangements are pending at this time. Online condolences may be left at [www.fullertonfh.com](http://www.fullertonfh.com) or Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhome.

Shirley Jean was born to Edward and Alice Gutzmer at Wahpeton, North Dakota. Later moving to Rockwell, she graduated with the class of 1954 from the Rockwell High School. She married Gerald E. Sturges on August 23, 1958 at Holy Family Catholic Church. To this union four children were born. She joined the staff of the Cerro Gordo Treasurers office from 1954 until 1965 when she joined with the Cerro Gordo Abstract company. She remained a dedicated manager until her retirement in 2000. During her life she loved to cook for family and friends, take walks, work on ceramic projects, and feeding the many birds and ducks that flocked to her patio. She had an avid interest in politics and would read many books on the subject. In her spare time she enjoyed the History and Comedy channels on TV. Her fondest moments were

following the grandchildren in all their events and activities.

Shirley's surviving children are Rick Sturges, Connie and her husband Bob Springer, Tim Sturges, and Marty Sturges all of Mason City, three grandchildren, Jerry Springer of Solon, Iowa, Rob (Rachel) Springer of North Liberty, Iowa, and Whitney Springer of Iowa City, Iowa, two sisters, Patsy Ricker and Rita Heacock both of California, one brother Edward (Marge) Gutzmer Jr., Sister and brother-in-law Patti (Don) Gealow, Mason City and several nieces and nephews.

Her parents, husband Gerald in 1972, one infant brother, and two sisters, Verla Hopper and Karen Coleman preceded her in death.

Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401, 641-423-8676  
for full obituary and picture see [www.Fullertonfh.com](http://www.Fullertonfh.com) or  
[Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/Fullertonfuneralhome)

# Cemetery Details

## Elmwood-St Joseph Cemetery

Mason City, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 23. 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM (CT)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
302 5th St SE  
Mason City, IA

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 23. 10:30 AM (CT)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
302 5th St SE  
Mason City, IA

## Graveside Service

JUN 23. 11:30 AM (CT)

Elmwood-St Joseph Cemetery  
Mason City, IA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley J. Sturges*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JG

“ I worked side-by-side with Shirley at Hy-Vee Chinese Express for over 8 years. I looked forward to spending my work day with Shirley and considered her to be a friend. I remember Shirley as someone who loved to laugh and we certainly did a lot of that to pass the shifts we spent together. She told me a joke one time about a fella who worked for the circus following an elephant around with a wheelbarrow and shovel scooping up the elephant's mess. The poor fellow was having trouble with his back and went to see the doctor who told him his work involved some heavy scooping and maybe he ought to find a new job. The poor guy cried out in distress, "What.....you mean leave show business!!!!" The rest of the years I worked with Shirley when different situations would come up we would laugh and say, "That's show business for ya!" I guess you could say that Shirley and I hit it off and many times we would laugh together until we were both wiping tears from our eyes. Shirley spoke often and with great pride about her family. She especially would look forward to preparing meals on holidays and occasions when all the family would gather at her home. She used to tell me that her favorite meal to prepare was barbeque ribs and potato salad because her grandson's loved it so much. She told me in fun that her grandson's might some day open a restaurant/bar and hire her to cook the ribs and make the potato salad. She was extremely proud of her entire family. Shirley made it no secret that she was conservative in her political beliefs. I would frequently tease her saying I had heard she was sending financial contributions to different Democratic and liberal candidates and organizations. I guess you can imagine the response I would get to that! I will remember Shirley for her kindness and concern for unfortunate children. Each spring she would remind me that I could buy some children's winter coats on clearance and put them aside for a "Coats for Kids" charity the following fall. The last time I talked with Shirley she said if I had some time she would like me to drive her car to Minnesota to a Sam's Club where she wanted to do some Christmas shopping for her grandchildren. Of course life is always busy and that never happened, but I will

*always wish we had made that trip.  
I know that Shirley will be so dearly missed by her family and I  
extend my deepest sympathy along with the memories that I have  
shared. ~ Joe Gansen*

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**Joe Gansen** - June 22, 2015 at 09:49 AM

SS

“ *Connie I am sorry that you lost your Mother. There is nothing like  
the Love of a Mom. I will be praying for you and your family.*

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**Sandy Schumaker Servantez** - June 22, 2015 at 08:40 AM

LC

“ *Rick, Connie, Tim & Marty: We are very sorry  
you have lost your Mother. She was a very  
good neighbor and will be missed. Just  
remember all the good times you have had  
with her. Larry & Norma Carver*

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**Larry & Norma Carver** - June 21, 2015 at 04:17 PM

