



Phyllis M. McCourt

June 26, 1917 - January 28, 2011

Phyllis M. McCourt, 93, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, passed into the arms of Jesus on January 22, 2011 at Trinity Medical Center, Bettendorf, Iowa. Phyllis Maurine Cleary was born on June 26, 1917 to Maurice T. and Grace E. Green Cleary in Chicago, Illinois. Phyllis lived a short time in southern Wisconsin but spent most of her life in Fond du Lac. Phyllis was joined in marriage to Howard C. McCourt on a snowy 22nd day of January in 1941, in Fond du Lac. He preceded her in death on March 6, 1999. She was a devoted wife and mother and also cared deeply for her friends, neighbors and relatives. Phyllis moved to Iowa in February of 2010 to be closer to her daughter. In her early adult years, Phyllis worked as a secretary for what was then called the Relief Dept. helping clients who were less fortunate. After her marriage, she moved to the McCourt family farm in the Town of Friendship. There, the city girl learned to become not only a wonderful wife, but also a valued partner in running the farm. Phyllis was active in many community organizations and church activities. She was among the charter members of the West Shore Homemakers and also was instrumental in starting the Hands of Friendship 4-H Club. She was also active in promoting dairy products and farming and worked closely with the Fond du Lac County Extension Office to achieve that end. She and Howard also were active supporters of education and served in several capacities with the former Lakeview School and later in other roles. Phyllis worked regularly in her garden and was a great cook and baker, even winning contests in her younger years. Perhaps her most active role was that of nurturer. She often befriended the elderly or lonely and made sure to visit them at the holidays, and taught her children to show compassion. She loved to have fun and laugh, and she found a way to celebrate every holiday that came around. Phyllis always had a positive attitude and encouraged others to do the same. Phyllis was an active member of First United Presbyterian Church and attended regularly until age 92. Her Christian faith was lived out every day of her life. The legacy of faith that Phyllis and Howard passed on to their family is the one gift that will be most cherished. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Valarie and Ron Hessel, of Bettendorf, Iowa and her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Cheryl McCourt of Kennewick, Washington. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Shannon (Mike) Novakovich of Pasco, Washington, Josh McCourt of Kennewick, Washington, Scott (Nicole) Hessel of St. Cloud, Minnesota,

Kevin (fiancée Natalie Buchheit) Hessel of Vancouver, Washington, David (Rene) Hessel of Boone, Iowa, and Mark Hessel of Ames, Iowa as well as two great-granddaughters, Brooklyn and Breanne Hessel of St. Cloud. She also leaves behind several nephews and nieces, particularly Charles McCourt and his wife Ruth whose loving help over the years has been invaluable. Vernon Augustine, a longtime employee who became a beloved friend is also left behind. Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Special thanks to all the caring aides and staff that assisted her over the last several years, both at home in Fond du Lac, and later in Iowa, most recently at Manor Care. The family appreciates all the prayers and affection shown to Phyllis over the years by her dear friends and family. Memorials may be directed to First Presbyterian Church, the Salvation Army of Fond du Lac, or the charity of your choice. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 28, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church, 1225 Fourth Street, Fond du Lac, with Rev. Jack Harrison officiating. Burial will follow in Rienzi Cemetery. The visitation will be on Friday at church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss of your mother. We will keep all of you in our prayers.*

Tom & Roxanne Wendt - January 27, 2011 at 07:45 PM

TL

“ *Phyllis M. McCourt*

Tom & Roxanne Wendt of Fond du Lac - January 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Valarie and family, My heart goes out to all of you. Please know that many heart-felt prayers are being lifted up on your behalf. With deepest sympathies, Jill*

Jill Jorgensen - January 26, 2011 at 11:22 PM

JH

“ *You have my deepest sympathy in the loss of your mom.
She will be missed.
Because of illness in my family, I will be unable to be with you.
Sorry*

Jeanette (Kaiser) Hinn - January 26, 2011 at 06:06 PM

AA

“ *To all of Phyllis's Family. My deepest sympathy to you all. I know that Phyllis is with her Lord. We will miss her so much in the activity groups here. I hope she is having a hot cup of coffee with Jesus. God bless you all.*

Ann Bowser Activity Assistant - January 26, 2011 at 02:46 PM

JH

“ *Dear Valarie & family, What a beautiful picture of your mother and a beautiful testimony of her life. You have our most sincere sympathy at this most difficult time. Knowing she is with Jesus will heal you with time. Love & Hugs, Janet & Jeff Hopper*

Janet & Jeff Hopper - January 26, 2011 at 02:03 PM

KS

“ To the entire family of Phyllis, My deepest sympathies to you for your loss. I have so many fond memories of (Mrs. McCourt) from my 4-H days with the The Hands of Friendship club, she was always so vibrant and energized and made us all feel so important. She always made the best cookies and cupcakes as well. May all of your wonderful memories carry you through this most difficult time. Karen (Urban) Schumacher

Karen (Urban) Schumacher - January 26, 2011 at 12:28 PM

PA

“ A WONDERFUL WOMEN. ENJOYED SEEING HER.

PAM ALLENDER - January 26, 2011 at 09:57 AM

JJ

“ Valarie and family, My heart goes out to all of you. Please know that many heart-felt prayers are being lifted up on your behalf. With deepest sympathies, Jill

Jill Jorgensen of Bettendorf, Iowa - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

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Janet & Jeff Hopper of Fond Du Lac, WI - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

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Jeanette (Kaiser) Hinn of Fond du Lac, WI - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KW

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Karen (Urban) Schumacher of Fond du Lac, WI - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM