



Bonnie J. Knight

June 24, 1927 - November 19, 2020

Bonnie Jean Cox was born on June 24, 1927 to Harrell and Sylvia (Sorensen) Cox. She was born in the upstairs bedroom of her paternal grandparents' house on Court Street. A sister, Betty Grace arrived 13 months later. Her brother Jack Harrell made his appearance in December of 1930. Bonnie and her sister were especially close and were great playmates and best friends.

The little family moved from Harlan to the Cuppy's Grove area shortly after Jack's birth and lived on an acreage next to Bonnie's maternal grandparents, Jens and Laura (Rasmussen) Sorensen. It was there that Bonnie started country school in first grade at the age of five. There were a lot of fun times and adventures while they were living in the country.

After the death of Bonnie's grandfather, George Cox, the family returned to Harlan to move in with and care for her grandmother, Emma. The Children would take turns through the summers staying with grandparents Jens and Laura Sorensen on their farm near Diagonal Iowa. Their time visiting was something they all looked forward to each year. Bonnie completed her education at Harlan High School in 1944. She was honored to be chosen as Homecoming Queen that school year. She also served on the staff of the yearbook.

Her first job after graduation was at the Harlan National Bank. In 1945 her Grandpa Sorensen passed away suddenly and her Grandma Sorensen decided to travel to California to visit relatives there. Bonnie went along as her companion. She was offered an opportunity to attend Glendale Community College so she stayed in California. While attending the junior college there she worked in an ice cream shop and then use her secretarial skills while working at the Glendale office of Lloyds of London Insurance. When Bonnie returned to Harlan she took a job as secretary to the high school principal, Mr. Jamison. It was during that time that she attended a neighborhood birthday party. She commented how good the black walnut cake that was served that day tasted. The woman that brought the cake asked her if she would like to meet the boy who made it. The rest is history. The young man was Raymond Jean Knight and their first date was chaperoned by Clara Jensen, the women that introduced them.

Raymond and Bonnie were married June 13, 1948 at Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan.

Kathleen Ray was born in August 1959. Bonnie left her secretarial job and began working in the family bakery business. Raymond's parents had moved to Harlan from Des Moines in 1946 to open Knight's Harlan Bakery on the square. Raymond and Bonnie became co-owners then bought out his parents' share of the business and became sole owners in 1963. The work involved a lot of hours together. The couple worked there together until they sold the business in December 1991.

Bonnie is preceded in death by her husband Raymond Knight in 2003, her sister Betty Grace Wiuff in 1950, her brother Jack Harrell Cox in 2019 and her parents, Harrell and Syliva (Sorensen) Cox. Surviving are children: Kathleen (Clen) Lincoln of Fort Dodge, Stephen of Harlan and Nancy (David) Jacobs of Harlan; grandchildren: Aaron (Sara) Lincoln, Brian (Janel) Lincoln, Carrie Neilsen, Emily (Chris) Dennis, Katie (Matt) Crawford and Daniel (Cora) Jacobs. She also leaves fifteen great grandchildren.

A Private Family Funeral Service will be held Monday, November 23, 2020 at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan.

Cemetery

Harlan Cemetery

911 12th Street

Harlan, IA, 51537

Comments



“ Charlaye James lit a candle in memory of Bonnie J. Knight



Charlaye James - November 27, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ Tami lit a candle in memory of Bonnie J. Knight



Tami - November 24, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ Bonnie was so enjoyable to visit with at First Baptist Church. Prayers to the family.

Mike & Lori Weisenborn - November 23, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ 21 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pauley Jones Funeral Homes, LLC - November 22, 2020 at 11:15 PM



“ Kathy Goede lit a candle in memory of Bonnie J. Knight



Kathy Goede - November 22, 2020 at 09:15 PM



“ Kathy, Steve and Nancy,
We are so sorry to hear the loss of your mother. She was a beautiful person. I remember the days how we used to stop at the bakery and get those delicious fried rolls with chocolate on them. Oh my, no one could ever copy that recipe. Your parents bakery could never be replaced. They had knack for baking and making everyone smile. Reading Bonnie's story, I did not know that she was born in the house that we lived in on Court street. I know we rented from your grandparents. Bonnie's parents lived next door in the little yellow house. Your mother will be dearly missed. But you will have all those beautiful memories. (Nancy i can see Emily in your mother.) Please know you are in our prayers. God Bless.
Kathy Gessert Kelly

Kathy Kelly - November 22, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ Dear Kathy, Steve and Nancy,
I was saddened to hear that your Mother passed away. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Where do I start with all of the wonderful Knight's Bakery memories? (When they thought I was lost in California?!? - LOL!). I never felt like an employee because your parents treated me (and all of their employees) like family. It was soooooo much fun watching you kids grow up. I loved witnessing and being a part of the 3 generations. Your Mother was the sweetest lady and such a kind woman. Yes, our 1967 wedding cake was a Knight's Bakery delicious masterpiece and I still have the cake topper which we displayed at our 50th wedding anniversary. Your parents were responsible for making the Harlan Square a special place. We miss those Good Old Days! We moved back to Iowa last year so when we "tour" Harlan, we might see you. Hold all of the dear memories close to your heart.

With Sympathy and Love,
Marilyn (Larry) Jans Deal

Marilyn Deal - November 21, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ I hadn't seen or heard anything from Bonnie in many years. The last was probably in 2003 when I brought my Dad, Orvie Fischer to Raymond's funeral. Dad and Raymond's mom Edna were 1st cousins. The Harlan Bakery was always a special place to visit. There has never been another like it. When we married in February 1961 they made our wedding cake. Bonnie was a beautiful sweet and pleasant person. May you hold your memories dear and near.

Sharell and Gene Fritz
Oakland, Iowa

Sharell Fritz - November 21, 2020 at 09:35 AM



“ To Bonnie's children, grandchildren and great children:
We were saddened to learn of Bonnie's passing. Although we only met a few times, we enjoyed her take on life and joy she had for her family.

Chuck and Marylou Walker

Marylou Walker - November 21, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ Since I retired and moved to Okoboji with my son we speak frequently about how much we miss the old Harlan Bakery. We have never in all the years found any to compare.. We miss everything the black walnut cake was my father's favorite. Your parents definitely put many delicious memories out in the world.

Pam Moshet - November 21, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ Gene And Jan Wilwerding sent a virtual gift in memory of Bonnie J. Knight



Gene and Jan Wilwerding - November 20, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ Dear Kathy, Steve and Nancy.
I am sorry to hear you lost your dear Mother. you have my sincerest sympathy.
I loved working at the Bakery and she was so kind and lots of fun. My prayers are with you..
Donna Burdick

Jim and Donna Burdick - November 20, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Angie LPN lit a candle in memory of Bonnie J. Knight



Angie LPN - November 20, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ Nancy, Dave and families, Al and I were so sorry to hear about your dear mom's passing away. Sending Hugs and Prayers. Allen and Patty Cox

Patty Cox - November 21, 2020 at 12:42 PM