



Carlene Louise Otterson

March 17, 1937 - February 3, 2017

Longtime teacher Carlene Otterson, 79, of Marshall died Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Medical Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., from a brain hemorrhage suffered earlier in the week.

Funeral services are scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall with burial at a later date. Visitation will be held 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Hamilton Funeral Home in Marshall with occasional background music from the grandchildren.

Carlene Louise Grewe was born March 17, 1937, to Edwin and Irene (Luehring) Grewe at their farm in Moltke Township, Sibley County, Minnesota, joining a close-knit clan of people north of Gibbon who celebrated their German heritage every day. She was baptized and later confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Moltke Township.

She was raised on the family farm with her two younger sisters at a time when all the neighbors were members of the same family trees. Carlene told stories of half-mile summer walks through the fields to the south to visit her grandmother, Louisa Grewe, on the homestead. These midday conversations spawned lifelong affinities for root beer and baking.

She completed her education through the eighth grade at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Moltke Township, then joined the Gibbon High School class of 1955. She played cornet in the high school band and kept friendships for life with her band peers and classmates. She was a leader in organizing class reunions and had recently made reservations for the class of 1955 to gather for an informal lunch later in the spring.

Carlene earned her bachelor's degree in business education from then-Mankato State College in 1958, attending classes year-round and completing her degree in three years. She started her career at Danube High School as a student teacher and took her first full-time position at Hutchinson.

She married Donald E. Otterson on July 8, 1961, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. They met in a summer school class — Art, Metal and Jewelry — at Mankato State where she was finishing electives and he was accumulating credits after transferring from Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts (today's Iowa State University). Don was sent by the U.S. Army to Germany in 1959 for about 18 months. After Carlene visited his parents in Winnebago, Minn., he proposed by letter from Germany, and she accepted by letter in reply. They were married about six weeks after his discharge.

The couple lived in Mankato after their marriage while Don finished his degree in industrial arts. They moved to Marshall for his student teaching, then to Redwood Falls for three years. They returned to Marshall in August 1968.

Carlene also taught at high schools in Jeffers, Minnesota, Morton and Russell before accepting a permanent position in business education at Marshall in 1971, primarily teaching typing and some shorthand. She was the Marshall-area civil service examiner for about 30 years, proctoring state tests two Saturday mornings each month in a high school classroom. She helped colleagues for many years with student clubs and organizations such as Office Education Association (today's Business Professionals of America) and the Distributive Education Clubs of America. A notorious night owl, she graded thousands of typing assignments each year at the kitchen table while watching "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

Carlene completed a master of education degree through St. Mary's University of Minnesota in 1994. She retired in 1999 as a language arts teacher at Marshall Middle School. Her grandson Matt was in the same building for her final two years of teaching. Her learning continued through senior college courses from retirement until last year.

The Ottersons have been members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church for 48 years. When her children were young, Carlene helped with Sunday School Christmas programs and summer Vacation Bible School. She sang in the church choir for decades, participated regularly in a women's Bible study and joined the quilters group for many years after her retirement.

She provided once-a-week day care for grandson Paul when he was a newborn and toddler and enjoyed having any of the grandchildren, regardless of age, spending evenings or weekends in the home she helped design and in which she had lived for nearly 39 years. She also relished talking and laughing with her sisters, Diane and Judy.

She is survived by her husband of 55-plus years, Don, of Marshall; son, Bob (Lisa) of Brookings, S.D.; daughter, Jill (Karl) Maurer of Chippewa Falls, Wis.; grandsons Matthew (Jess), Paul and Michael; granddaughters Maret, Ingrid and Katja; a great-grandson, Ben, whom she never met but enjoyed hearing about in her final days; two sisters, Diane (Dick) Isakson and Judy (Gary) Schafer, both of Gibbon; two nephews; four nieces; aunt Irene Luehring of Fairfax, Minn., and five first cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ed and Irene, in August 1988, aunts, uncles and two first cousins.

Cemetery

Marshall Cemetery

600 N Bruce St

Marshall, MN, 56258

Events

FEB **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

7

Hamilton Funeral Home

701 Jewett Street, Marshall, MN, US, 56258

FEB **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

8

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

1301 South 4th Street, Marshall, MN, US, 56258

FEB **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

8

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

1301 South 4th Street, Marshall, MN, US, 56258

Comments



“ With deep sympathy, we share your sorrow. " Jesus said to her. I am the resurrection and the life. The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life." The resurrection hope gives us much needed comfort and hope. John 11:25

Mrs. Lynn - February 14, 2017 at 07:23 AM



“ Don, Jill, and Bob:

Sorry to hear of your loss. Carlene always had such an upbeat outlook on life. Spending time in the business wing with my dad when I was younger, she always took time to let us know we were all "chips off the old block"!!! And during high school it was Carlene who taught me how to type. Something I use everyday.

I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Brian Cole (class of '88)

Brian Cole - February 11, 2017 at 12:02 PM



“ Otterson family -

So sorry to hear about the passing of Carlene! She was such a wonderful lady and always had a smile on her face! May God give you the strength to get through this difficult time!

Jennifer Meyer

Jennifer Meyer - February 08, 2017 at 08:32 AM



“ Dear Don, Bob and Jill,
Sending my sincerest sympathy and love to each one of you from Kentucky. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. I will always cherish the wonderful times I spent with Carlene. She will be deeply missed. May God hold all of you in the palms of his hands during this difficult time.
Lovingly your cousin,
Robyn Swanson

Robyn Swanson - February 08, 2017 at 01:12 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Otterson's passing. Condolences to Mr. O and family. Wishing you all peace and comfort. - Jon Olson (MHS class of '79)

Jon Olson - February 07, 2017 at 09:51 PM



“ Sending sincere sympathy to Don and family on the loss of Carlene. From Redwood Falls High School Student (class of '66), Gary Schmidt, Vesta, MN.

Gary Schmidt - February 07, 2017 at 08:54 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Carlene Louise Otterson.



February 07, 2017 at 02:27 PM



“ 55 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hamilton Funeral Home - February 07, 2017 at 10:15 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Don, Bob, Jill & families on the passing of Carlene. You were all very special in her heart as we heard about on our trips to the periodontist in Mankato. Whoever had so much fun going to the periodontist than the Haalands & the Ottersons.
We also have fond memories of the back to school parties planned by the Ziemanns & the Ottersons. But most of all, I will miss the weekly coffee visits that we have shared since retirement with the Birthday Club gals. Heaven indeed gained angel last Friday.

Sheldon & Marge Haaland

Sheldon & Marge Haaland - February 07, 2017 at 08:10 AM



“ Thanks, Marge! It was good to gather for coffee today in her memory. Jill

Jill Maurer - February 07, 2017 at 12:03 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Carlene Louise Otterson.



February 07, 2017 at 08:01 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Don, Bob, and the family and friends. I got to know Carlene through St. Stephens and what a wonderful lady so down to earth. She never forgot a person even when you hadn't seen her for a long time. I will miss that sweet lady! Don and Bob, and grandma's sweet granddaughter a great big hug to you all. She is now in a wonderful place with dear sweet Jesus and all the other angels.

Cindy Buchert

Cindy Buchert - February 06, 2017 at 10:11 PM



“ I've known Carlene all of my life. We both grew up in Moltke Township and attended St. Peter's Lutheran School and Gibbon High School together. When Diane and I were too young to drive she was our driver for basketball and football games, which we appreciated. When she started Mankato State she was my sister's roommate. Carlene always seemed to have tons of energy and a joy for life....like her mother. My deepest sympathy to you, Don, and your family. May you find peace and comfort in our Lord.

Sincerely,
Carol (Bode) Langevin

Carol Langevin - February 06, 2017 at 09:01 PM



“ To Mrs. Otteron's Family,

My thoughts and prayers are with you. I am one of many she taught typing too! Loved her! And to Don.....I miss you guys coming in to my mom's store (Lea's Hallmark) and giving me a bad time while Mrs. Otterson was shopping!! Those were the days! Wish I could be there to give you a great big hug! Know I am thinking of you all as you lay that special lady to rest!

Missy Rekedal Ahlers



Missy Ahlers - February 06, 2017 at 08:35 PM



“ Condolences to Don & family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Enjoyed our talks about college days @ Mankato.

Catol Owen - February 06, 2017 at 06:47 PM



“ My condolences to Don, Bob, Jill and families, I enjoyed my teaching time with Carlene MHS. May she Rest In Peace.

Cathy Schlagel

cschlagel - February 06, 2017 at 05:28 PM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Carlene Louise Otterson.



February 06, 2017 at 05:26 PM



“ Carlene was the greatest! We were classmates in the Gibbon class of 1955. She kept the class together with reunion planning and organizing for the past 62 years. Her birthday is on St. Patrick's Day. I told her it was St. Carlene's Day. Her family should be very proud of Carlene. My sympathy to Don and his family. Carlene was the greatest!

Lyle

Lyle H. Dahl - February 06, 2017 at 04:45 PM



“ Thank you, Lyle. Nearly every conversation about the Gibbon Class of 1955 includes a reference to you. — Bob

Bob Otterson - February 06, 2017 at 08:56 PM



“ One of my favorite people, and teacher! My sympathies to her family.

Tammy VanOverbeke - February 06, 2017 at 04:09 PM



“ What a joy it was to know Carlene – she was a bright spot at our monthly breakfasts at Perkins! She had a heart of gold! Blessed be her memory!

Bob Steen - February 06, 2017 at 03:31 PM



“ Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Carlene Louise Otterson.



February 06, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ Very sorry to hear of Carlene's passing, I have many fond memories of her at St. Stephen and in her typing class. Prayers for the entire Otterson family.

Brad Wiger - February 06, 2017 at 12:53 PM



“ Thank you, Brad. I appreciate the comments about typing class, particularly from another teacher's kid. — Bob

Bob Otterson - February 06, 2017 at 08:57 PM



“ Don, Bob, and Jill and families,
So many wonderful memories. May the Lord Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead,
give you peace, comfort and hope. God bless,
Lowell and Jean Ziemann

Lowell and Jean Ziemann - February 06, 2017 at 11:04 AM



“ Lowell ... The Workshop Week gatherings remain among the best memories of my youth.
Jill found at least one photo from the Otterson-Ziemann parties for the slide show.
Unfortunately, Mom was the photographer for the most amusing photos. — Bob

Bob Otterson - February 06, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ Dad was touched to hear from you. Thanks! Like Bob, I remember those workshop parties
and the annual thrift sales. --Jill

Jill Maurer - February 06, 2017 at 09:59 PM



“ Bob, Could you email me some of those pictures? If not don't worry about it.
zekeziemann@reagan.com

Lowell - February 10, 2017 at 10:24 AM



“ My only contact with Carlene was at Senior College, but we shared many classes
over the years. She was always friendly and interested in the lives of others. You
have my deepest sympathy.

Cleone Richardson - February 06, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ She was the sweetest most caring person. I had her for my typing teacher in school
and always such a happy, smiley person at church. She will be missed by many. All
my sympathy to the family.

Tammy Stattelmann - February 06, 2017 at 12:15 AM



“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Bob Otterson - February 05, 2017 at 11:51 PM



“ White Mixed Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Carlene Louise Otterson.



February 05, 2017 at 10:24 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. We had such a nice conversation in December. She will be remembered as a very kind woman. Ann Doyscher-Domres

Ann Doyscher-Domres - February 05, 2017 at 08:01 PM



“ Thank you, Ann. I was at my folks' house yesterday, and the program from your mother's funeral was still next to Mom's laptop. I remember your mother in a similar manner. — Bob

Bob Otterson - February 06, 2017 at 08:59 PM



“ One of my favorite business teachers that is remembered. Sympathy to the Otterson family.

Elaine Jenniges

Elaine Jenniges - February 05, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ Don and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Cherish all of your wonderful memories of Carlene. She will be missed by all. Don and Jan Fuhrmann

Jan Fuhrmann - February 05, 2017 at 03:32 PM



“ Thoughts, Prayers, and Hugs to Don and family!
Dean and Penny Wyffels

Penny Wyffels - February 05, 2017 at 08:08 PM



“ Don and Family - Carlene was a wonderful teaching mentor and friend during my years at Marshall High School. There was never a dull moment with "Carl." I will cherish these memories for a long time.

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Cheryl Grow-Scholz

Cheryl Scholz - February 06, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ Don, Bob, Jill and families,
I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your beloved wife and mother. I remember her and your entire family with such fondness. So many Sunday mornings after church spent at the Ottersons. In fact, so much of my childhood spent at or with the Ottersons! May you find peace and comfort during this difficult time from the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many blessings, thought and prayers.

Suzanne Ziemann Propoggio

suzanne propoggio - February 08, 2017 at 07:28 AM