



Irene Shewmaker

March 3, 1924 - April 4, 2019

Irene Elizabeth (Parrish) Shewmaker, 95 of Vergennes, passed away at 12:45pm on Thursday, April 4 in Manor Court, Carbondale.

Irene was born in Vergennes, IL on March 3, 1924 to Robert and Alice Parrish. She was one of 10 children.

She married Charles Walter Shewmaker on February 27, 1942. They were happily married for 52 years.

Irene was a member of Vergennes Methodist church. She attended re-weaving school in St. Louis, MO and worked as a re-weaver for men's and women's dress clothes. She later worked at Country Set and Bridal Originals, and then was quite the local seamstress. She could be found gardening, cooking, sewing, and quilting in her spare time. Irene was also a member of the Eastern Star. She also adored all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them.

Irene is survived by 3 children and their spouses. Myrna (Bill) Coffey, Ladonna (Jack) Etherton, and David (Carolyn) Shewmaker, 7 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents and 5 siblings.

Funeral Service for Irene Shewmaker will be Friday, April 12, 2019 at 1:00 pm in Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral with Rev. Larry Gilbert officiating. Interment will follow in Parrish Cemetery in Vergennes.

Visitation will be from 11:00 am until the hour of service in the funeral home.

Memorials can be made to Wesley United Methodist Church in Vergennes and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Parrish Cemetery

Vergennes, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Service

APR 12. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Graveside Service

APR 12. 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM.

Parrish Cemetery
Vergennes, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Irene Shewmaker*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ Aunt Irene was a beautiful, spirited, brilliant, and extraordinary woman who only disliked not loving.

Irene had a never ending love for her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, her large family that spanned the continental United States, many friends, and her beloved Walter with whom she found her spiritual and intellectual counterpart until his death twenty-five years ago.

Irene loved deeply without reservation and with an equal affection and sincerity that allowed those she loved to fully reciprocate the emotion. There was nothing in her power she would not do for those in need, and it was known without her ever having to enter her feelings into words.

Irene was not judgmental of others who were hurtful or unkind and when she was disappointed in someone or became disillusioned, she didn't speak of them negatively but rather chose to forgive them whether or not her forgiveness was requested.

Irene was the sister of my mother and I recall visiting her family when my parents travelled to Illinois when I was a little girl. Irene was smart and treated me kindly and enjoyed laughing with me. She was gifted in the art of sewing and crafting and especially the mending of damaged garments. Working with high-power magnification and special lighting, Irene showed me how to repair damaged garments by reweaving threads over the damaged area that were pulled from the seams and edges of the fabric tucked under the collar. She guided me through the weaving of the threads over the damaged areas to effectively recreate even the most intricate pattern. I was only a child but recall the feeling of pride I felt when Aunt Irene praised my work after helping her repair a small hole in a mens wool suit jacket. To this day, I find myself checking the garments that I buy for swatches or adequate threads along the seams should they be needed to repair damage or to cover a stain on the garment.

I remember Aunt Irene as having a smile that would light the night and a voice as sweet as honey. She carried herself with a distinctive flair and just like my mother, she walked swiftly, particularly when making trips to and from the basement.

Aunt Irene showed me extraordinary love and kindness during my visits to Illinois and welcomed me like a daughter rather than a visiting relative from Arizona.

As Aunt Irene's children married and began their own families, she never lost her natural kindness and took pride in her grandchildren. Above all, she was a true friend to her family and to those who knew and loved her. She was always willing to extend a helping hand or listen to another's problems. She wanted to use her knowledge, her many skills and abilities, to help others, devoting herself to advancing the ideals she held so dearly.

Irene, you were the best mother your children could ever have, and you and your beloved Walter provided your children with unbridled love and a unique reassurance and encouragement that allowed them to excel to extraordinary heights. Your children lived every day with the peace, strength and knowledge that they were deeply loved from the moment of conception and that your love was unconditional and never ending. Your children are the very best of you and Walter and a joy for all to know and love.

May you rest peacefully in Walter's and God's presence.

Your loving niece, Kathryn Smith

Kathryn Smith - April 13, 2019 at 05:59 AM