

Jean Leu Stanley

Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be on a date late in August, to be announced soon. No visitation. Online condolences: www.wittichfuneralhome.com or davejeanie@davidstanley.us

Muscatine, Iowa — Jean Leu Stanley, 86, of Muscatine, went home to her Lord on Tuesday, August 04, 2015 in her home, surrounded by family and friends who now celebrate with her. Her timing was perfect, in the middle of a family reunion.

Jeanie was born in Muscatine on October 12, 1928, the daughter of G. Chester and Zelda M. Leu.

She met her future husband, David M. Stanley, in fifth grade at Jefferson School. She said, "I picked him out that first year but Dave was slow and it took him four years to get the message." They were high school sweethearts and married at 19 on June 27, 1948. They continued deeply in love through 67 years of marriage.

Jeanie and Dave have four children, all married: Lincoln, Rebecca, Nathan, and Elizabeth; and ten grandchildren.

Left on earth to celebrate her life and honor her memory are her husband; her four children and their spouses, Lincoln (Barbara Mazer) Stanley of Rockville MD, Rebecca (Timothy McFate) Stanley of Cranston RI, Nathan (Ruth) Woodliff-Stanley of Denver CO, and Elizabeth (Timothy) Shriver of Coralville IA; all ten grandchildren, Arianna Stanley, Konrad Fuhri, Duncan Fuhri, Elijah McFate, George Woodliff-Stanley, John Woodliff-Stanley, Alan Shriver, Julia Shriver, Maria Shriver, and Leo Shriver; and her sisters, Peggy (Donald) Shriver of New York City and Joyce Barnes of Tucson AZ and their children.

She was preceded in death by her parents and several aunts and uncles.

She graduated from Pella High School and earned her B.A. degree from the University of Iowa. Rust College in Mississippi awarded Jeanie an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree.

Jeanie enjoyed being a mother. She had part-time jobs as a waitress, summer camp staffer, secretary, and investment company officer, but for most of her life she was nearly a full-time mother or full-time volunteer or both.

She has been active for 60 years in Wesley United Methodist Church, serving on the Church Council and Staff-Parish Relations Committee and as United Methodist Women President and Sunday school class President.

She was a Steering Committee member of United Methodist Action, working for church renewal.

Jeanie served for 24 years on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Evangelism, including positions as Executive Committee member, Search Committee member, and Secretary.

Jeanie and Dave co-chaired a statewide "Spirit Alive! Churches Alive!" campaign that enlisted helpers and money to revitalize Methodist churches and plant new churches.

At various times she was President of Church Women United, AAUW, and her TTT chapter. She had a reputation for running meetings on time. She was a member of Rotary Club and Century Club.

She and Dave were leaders in United Marriage Encounter, a Christian ministry to help strengthen and transform marriages. For seven years they were its Executive Couple; during those years UME grew three times larger and began its expansion overseas. Jeanie and Dave were on the presenting teams for 116 Marriage Encounter Weekends.

Jeanie was a public speaker for Iowans for Tax Relief and for National Taxpayers Union. She and Dave together spoke to more than 200 taxpayer information meetings in all 99 Iowa counties and in Ohio. She was active on both Boards.

New Hope Foundation was co-founded by Jeanie and Dave. She served as an officer and director. She was involved in restoration and expansion of Octagon Place and the nature preserve managed by the foundation.

Favorite leisure activities included grandchildren, reading, beach vacations, walking, singing, piano, her cats, and baking the always-in-demand Jeanie brownies.

Many people say that Jeanie's personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the warmth and depth of her faith, have helped their faith to grow.

A few of many compliments she has received:

"She is confident. She knows who she is and Whose she is."

"God's love shines through Jeanie."

"I like listening to Jeanie pray."

"A sunshine person who brings light, joy, and music into our lives."

"Jeanie is an encourager, giving love, thanks, compliments, and appreciation."

"She likes people, cares about people, and is a great listener."

"She has a wild and wonderful sense of humor."

"Jeanie is not a status-seeker. No pretense. She is a good steward of God's many gifts."

"Jeanie and Dave are an example of what marriage should be."

"Your life has made a major difference to many people (including me) and to many righteous causes."

Jeanie's smile is famous. Dave said she could even nag with a smile. When she was singing in the Wesley Women's Chorus, the director said, "Ladies, you are singing a joyous hymn; smile while you sing, like Jeanie." One singer replied, "But she's always smiling."

Early in their marriage, Dave and Jeanie sat in their stalled, ancient car while rain poured through the tattered fabric roof. Jeanie beamed and told her wet, grumpy husband, "But dear, we're having an adventure!" She made their lives a happy adventure.

A stroke in 1996 began a 19-year series of small, gradual memory losses that recently became severe. Jeanie managed this with courage and humor:

“If you see me wandering around, please point me in the right direction.”
Her smiles continued to the end.

Memorials will be welcomed by New Hope Foundation or by United
Marriage Encounter, both at PO Box 209, Muscatine IA 52761.