



Ella May Ruppert

May 12, 1934 - March 17, 2021

Ella May Ruppert, age 86, of Washington, Iowa, passed away Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at the United Presbyterian Home following a short illness.

Private family services and interment will be held Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington with Pastor Kwang Song officiating. Memorials have been established for the United Methodist Church and Hospice of Washington County. The Jones & Eden Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent for Ella May's family through the web at www.jonesfh.com

Ella May was born May 12, 1934 in Pekin, Iowa, the daughter of Cecil and Edith (Zepp) Garrels. She attended country school in Jefferson County and graduated from Packwood High School. Ella May received her Teaching Certificate from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. She later received her Bachelor's Degree from Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant. Ella May was united in marriage to Robert Keith "Bob" Ruppert on July 3, 1955 in Pekin, Iowa.

Ella May began her exceptional teaching career in Washington, Iowa in 1953 and retired from teaching in 1992. She cared deeply for her students and was a positive, energetic influence on them. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, TTT and PEO. Ella May and Bob had a long, loving marriage and had an idyllic retirement. They wintered in Sun City West, Arizona for many years. She enjoyed painting, reading, long bike rides, walks and especially her family.

She is survived by her son, Doug Ruppert and wife Cindy of Iowa City, IA; daughter, Karen McFarland and husband Jon of Washington, IA; five grandchildren: Jennifer Sanchez and husband Joe of Plymouth, MN; Brent Ruppert and wife Breanne of Tiffin, IA; Lauren Muhlenbruch and husband Ben of Iowa City, IA; Ben McFarland and wife Hannah of Des Moines, IA; and Cassie Vazquez and husband Rick of North Liberty, IA; and two great-granddaughters; Elodie and Mila Vazquez. LLL.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband in 2017; and brother, Dale Garrels and wife Bev.

Cemetery

Elm Grove Cemetery

Washington, IA, 52353

Comments



“ We met Ella May and her husband on a trip to Branson with HUGS Tours. An absolutely beautiful couple. We feel so blessed to have had our paths cross. We had so much fun and they were a delight to travel with. She will be missed but feel like she is so happy to be reunited with her loving husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family as the grief is difficult to get through when saying goodbye even when it is temporary. Her journey will be peaceful. HUGS to all from Jim and Sherrie Hazen Hansen.



Sherrie Hazen-Hansen - March 26, 2021 at 07:03 PM



“ Karen, Doug and family, My deepest sympathy to each of you with the loss of Ella May. It seems like we are losing a lot of our community leaders. Ella May and I had several years together in Stewart Elementary. I can't believe the years that have passed since our retirement years. Your dad and I had several good years together at Rotary. Time leaves us with memories but time has also taken a part of our hearts! God Bless!

Gary Murphy - March 24, 2021 at 10:43 PM



“ Karen, Doug and families, we are so sad for your loss of Ella May - what a lovely lady! She was always so friendly and interested in others. She taught you both well, and we know she was so proud of both of you. May God hold you close during these difficult days.

Rachel Nicola and Dave Stoufer

Rachel Nicola - March 24, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ So saddened by the news of her passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. She was such an incredible woman and I always enjoyed our visits throughout the years. She was always so upbeat and energetic. Such a lovely couple that will be deeply missed. My sympathy. Carole Martins

Carole Martins - March 23, 2021 at 11:50 PM



“ Ella's May was a great person. I will miss her in May ways. You have my sympathy in your loss. Connie Bauer Crane

Connie Bauer Crane - March 22, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ Karen and Doug and families,
Thinking of you with love and sympathy, in the loss of your lovely, mom.
Jenny and David Sojka

jenny Sojka - March 22, 2021 at 08:41 AM



“ Ella May was a joy to all who came in contact with her! She always had a smile and a kind word and was anxious to hear of what was going on in your life. I will miss her friendship.

Bill (Allen) Stewart - March 20, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ I enjoyed many chats with Ella May and almost every one was filled with updated about her grandchildren. I am sad to hear of her passing and send my prayers for her family as they walk through this time. Ella May was a wonderful woman. My sympathies to you and your family

Mrs. Chris Richardson - March 20, 2021 at 12:46 AM



“ I taught with Ella Mae at Lincoln for many years. At that time teachers were expected to dress very professionally. Ella Mae set the standard for the rest of us to follow. Heels, hose and always an appropriate skirt or dress. But the professional manner she always displayed by her dress was nothing compared to her professional way she approached her role as a teacher. Every child mattered, every child recognized as a unique individual and was treated as such. She set a high standard we all strived to achieve. Ella Mae, thank you for all you gifted the rest of us. You will be missed.

Karen Moenck - March 19, 2021 at 09:55 PM



“ Mary Whittaker sent a virtual gift in memory of Ella May Ruppert



Mary Whittaker - March 19, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ We have many fond memories of Ella May. She was such a kind person with a beautiful smile to match her spirit and faith. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to her family. Milton & Ilene Schnicker

Ilene Schnicker - March 19, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ So sorry for the passing of your mother. What a nice lady and quick with a smile. Praying for your family.

Teresa Munn

Teresa Munn - March 19, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ella May Ruppert.



March 19, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ So sorry to hear of her passing. I hope she knew what a positive force she was with her students. I remember vividly coming to Lincoln elementary in the 2nd grade in the middle of the school year and how hard it was. Mrs. Ruppert made me feel so welcome and really took the fear away. She made such a difference in how I adapted to my transition to a new school. One of my favorite teachers. I am so sorry for your loss.

Monica McKowen Blackburn - March 19, 2021 at 12:31 PM



“ Mrs Ruppert made a huge difference in my life. After the car accident, she came to our house with worksheets so I wouldn't be too far behind. She talked and laughed and got to know me. When I was called Frankenstein my first day back, she talked me out of a locked bathroom and reassured me I was not Frankenstein. She is the reason I work in education today and when I see someone struggling, ask myself “WWEMD”-yep, WHAT WOULD ELLA MAY DO. She was exactly who I needed at the most difficult time of my life and I am extremely grateful you shared her with so many of us.

elizabeth mcurdy harris - March 19, 2021 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Ruppert, as I called her at the start of 2nd grade clear through adulthood was an encouraging, loving lady who left an impact on me. She always greeted me with her warm smile and I loved her hugs! When she and Bob wintered in Arizona I missed seeing them in church on Sundays. My heart goes out to the family. Prayers and hugs to you.

Dana Rembold - March 19, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ Doug, Karen and families, we are so very sorry for the loss of your wonderful mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Don and Jackie



Don & Jackie Marie - March 19, 2021 at 09:36 AM



“ So happy to have Ella Mae my neighbor in Kerr Hall. Always a friendly, gracious lady. Positive and caring in her daily outlook. So missed. So loved.

Donna Proudfit - March 19, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Mrs. Ruppert. Loved her as my teacher! Prayers for all your family!
Paula Farris McConnell

Paula McConnell - March 19, 2021 at 07:30 AM



“ My deepest sympathy.



Annette M Fritz - March 19, 2021 at 07:01 AM



“ Ella May was such a sweet, sweet woman. I am so thankful that I got to know her the past couple of years. She always put others first & made sure to check in to see how things were going even if she wasn't having the best day herself. It warmed my heart to visit with her & I will miss her asking “And how are you doing Whitney?”... never forgetting to call me by name. Thinking of your family at this difficult time.

Whitney (Paul) Swift - March 18, 2021 at 10:42 PM



“ Larry And Sue Applegate lit a candle in memory of Ella May Ruppert



Larry and Sue Applegate - March 18, 2021 at 05:15 PM



“ Doug, Karen and families, George and I send our condolences on the passing of your Mom - she was a sweet person with a wonderful smile who will be truly missed. Thinking of you all so much. George and Anita Moore

Anita Moore - March 18, 2021 at 04:54 PM



“ She was a BEAUTIFUL soul. I loved her very much!!!

Jeff Dickerson - March 18, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ Karen, I was sorry to read of your mom's passing. She always chatted with me when I visited Maynard at the UP Home. When I was a young girl she made me feel welcome at your house. She even said we could snack on Ding Dongs! I'm praying for you as you adjust to your new normal. Lori Mullikin

Lori Mullikin - March 18, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ Wonderful teacher. Our daughter's favorite. Our sympathy to the family.

Julie Mangold - March 18, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ Mrs. Ruppert was a wonderful teacher. She taught me at Stewart 1989-1990. Although it has been 30 years I still remember her fondly and T-R-Y Try Try Try, her reading worksheet folders and her overall kindness and love of her students. After I graduated college I sent her a card of thanks for her impact on my life. This card to tell her thank you would lead to her sending Christmas cards and other notes when word got back home of a major event in life - I always felt very special when receiving these notes. She was truly a special lady and a memorable teacher. Sending my thoughts and prayers to her family and friends. She will be dearly missed. Thinking of you all.
Jessica Lowe Vokes

Jessica Lowe Vokes - March 18, 2021 at 01:42 PM



“ Doug, Karen, and entire family we are sending our prayers, thoughts, and blessings. May fond memories ease the sorrow. I remember Bob and Ella May stopping by the office as they were heading for a dinner at the Lark in Tiffin. Such fun and caring people. I am sure Ella May has a smile being with Bob once again. Love and hugs to each of you.
Joyce and Jerry Bryan

Joyce Bryan - March 18, 2021 at 10:36 PM



“ Ella May's family , I am so sorry for the loss. My mother, the late Betty Ranshaw Brooks and I knew Ella May when they both taught at Lincoln School during the 50's. Ella May , a newlywed and my mom , a recent divorcee along with Eva Gallagher spent a lot of time as young teachers together and became good friends! Later when I worked at Stewart school and Ella May was teaching there we became friends again and shared wonderful memories of the times together. She loved to remember me as this little bitty 4 year old ! Then in the past three years I met up again with her at the Wellness Center at the UP Home. More memories to remember. Ella May was a wonderful lady and Bob , what a gentleman !!! Truly one of the most caring and compassionate couples I have ever had the pleasure to know . My prayers and thoughts are with you all.
Linda Ranshaw Brown

Linda Brown - March 18, 2021 at 01:30 PM