



Iris Likens

October 13, 1929 - November 30, 2020

Iris J. Likens, 91, of Cape Girardeau died November 30, 2020 at Chateau Girardeau.

She was born October 13, 1929 in Flint Michigan, daughter of Plutarch P. and Lucille Beckman Conrad.

Iris was a life-long educator who began her own education in Marble Hill, Missouri where she attended both elementary and high school graduating in 1947. Iris continued her education at Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Missouri where she completed her Master's Degree in Education. She taught at several elementary schools in southeast Missouri, with the last 25 years being at the former Hawthorn School in Cape Girardeau. As an educator, Iris always looked for opportunities learn and upon retirement in 1988, she began her second career in volunteering with multiple organizations including SE Hospice, National and State Park Systems, and Abbey Road Christian Church. She shared her knowledge of history and the communities that she was a part of with others through her involvement in the restoration of the Red House in downtown Cape Girardeau and her part-time work at the Bollinger Mill State Historic Site throughout retirement.

Iris enjoyed the outdoors and exploring new places. Whether it was camping or bike riding, she always enjoyed traveling the United States and the world. A few of her favorite locations included, Alaska, Hawaii, South Africa, Ireland, Israel, Spain, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Ecuador, and The Galapagos Islands.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Likens, who passed away in May of 2020.

Iris is survived by her children, Brad (Pat) Ferguson, John (Cathy) Likens and Dr. Christopher (Nancy) Likens. Iris is proud of her seven grandchildren, Shannon Ferguson, David (Kim) Likens, Jim Likens, Sarah Likens, Robert Likens, Andrew (Rachel) Likens, and Morgan Likens. Also surviving are two sisters, Patty Conrad and Jo Burford of Marble Hill MO.

Iris was an active member of Abbey Road Christian Church and the Missouri Retired Teachers Association.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to Abbey Road Christian Church in Cape Girardeau.

The family will have a private graveside service at 2:00pm Friday at Cape County Memorial Park and a Celebration of Life at a later date.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Iris was my fifth grade teacher and was terrific. She would say “David you worry too much. Calm down.” I tried to follow her advise and have failed. She was my teacher when Mr. Raddle came in and told her President Kennedy had been murdered. She then told us. Sad day. I still remember her so well. Rest In Peace.

David Pollack

david pollack - December 26, 2020 at 09:08 PM

VC

“ Iris and Bill were always kind and loving to our family when we joined First Christian Church. I always enjoyed talking with Iris she was a kind and thoughtful person. My condolences to your family.
John and Vickie Clubb

Vickie Clubb - December 03, 2020 at 07:22 AM

LF

“ I am so sad to hear about the passing of one of my favorite teachers I have ever had. Mrs. Likens has come to mind with fondness several times over the years. She was my 6th grade teacher at Hawthorn School and was my favorite. I hope she knew what a positive impression she made on my life. She encouraged me with compliments about my spelling skills, something I excelled in, and she made me feel proud of myself. I am sure she did that with a lot of students over the years but she had a way to make me feel special during a time in my life when I needed it the most. Even years later when I would see her out shopping, she'd say, "there's my best 6th grade speller!" She was a blessing to many and my sincere condolences to the family. May she rest in God's Perfect Peace.

Linda (Klinkhardt) Farrar

Linda Farrar - December 02, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JF

“ What a wonderful mother and grandmother you have! I was fortunate to have Iris as my fifth grade teacher at Alma Schrader School. So many happy memories of her are dancing around in my head. Once she told us the story of when she decided to become a teacher. She said that there was a boy in her class who was unkind and often made fun of others. When it was Iris' turn to get in front of the class to re-tell a fairy tale, she just knew he would ridicule her, so she tried to prepare herself. She spun that yarn with all her might and to her amazement, the boy was jaw-dropped captivated. She decided right then and there that teaching was the job for her if she could reach that young man. We're all so glad you did! Rest well, Iris.

Jan Finch - December 01, 2020 at 11:03 PM

BC

Iris was a dear friend as a fellow teacher and as a resident of the chateau Girardeau. She always included me in conversation even when she couldn't understand what I was saying. She will always be remembered as a dear friend because she was so kind to everyone she met. She enjoyed sharing her many travel experiences with others and we always enjoyed hearing about them. I will certainly miss seeing her at various activities here at the Chateau.

betty Chasteen - December 03, 2020 at 12:04 PM

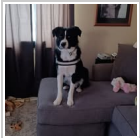
NH

“ *May God hold you in the palm of His almighty hand during this difficult time.*

Fondly,

Keith and Nancy Huckstep

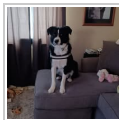
Nancy E Huckstep - December 01, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ *PJ Keller lit a candle in memory of Iris Likens*



PJ Keller - December 01, 2020 at 07:54 PM



I am So Sorry David & Kim My Prayers are with You

PJ Keller - December 01, 2020 at 07:56 PM

BL

“ Dear Brad, John & Chris,
Iris & Bill have always been two of my favorite friends of my parents!
After my mother's death so early on, Iris and I remained dear
friends! I've always admired her and I am sorry to see her go, even
though I know she was ready. I will miss her and our conversations.
Their trip out here to Wenatchee, WA is a treasured memory for me!
(:

*Brad, it has been great reconnecting with you and staying up on
your mother's condition and the rest of your family. Thank you for
that!*

*Please know you will all be in my thoughts and prayers as you
adjust to the loss of both Iris & Bill in this strange covid year.*

With lots of love.

Sincerely,

Barb (Kuster) Larkin

Barbara Kuster Larkin - December 01, 2020 at 01:17 PM