



Shirley June Willhoft

June 19, 1936 - May 11, 2019

Shirley June Acker Willhoft was born on June 19, 1936 to Reynald Bruce Acker and Gretta Clevenger Acker in Belgrade, Nebraska. After 14 months a sister Sandra joined the family. They moved to Fullerton, Nebraska where Shirley attended kindergarten. The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska where her father worked at the Martin Bomb Plant. In 1946, the Ackers moved to Central City. Shirley attended grade and high school graduating from Central City High School in 1954. While in school, she dated Jerry D. Willhoft and after two years at Kearney State Teacher's College and a year teaching at Paxton, Nebraska, they married in the Central City Baptist Church in 1957. Jay Douglas was born in 1958, Joel Alan in 1959.

The family moved to Imperial where Jerry went to work with the Soil Conservation Service. In 1960, John Bruce was born and in 1962, James Reynold was born. The family lived there for 17 years and left many friends behind when they moved to Lincoln so Jerry could attend the University of Nebraska. He got a degree in Agriculture and Shirley went to South East College to get commercial skills. She substituted in both the Imperial and Lincoln Schools for twelve years. While in Lincoln, she worked at Miller and Paine in the East Office. All four sons worked and attended the University of Nebraska.

After five years, Jerry and Shirley moved back to Central City. Jerry filled a

term in the Nebraska Legislature. Driving cars for “Snow Birds” for fifteen years, several cruises and a trip to Ockelbo, Sweden were their highlights. The greatest sorrow in her life was the death of her third son John Bruce in 1994.

Shirley’s family, extended family, and church were very important to her. She loved her home and enjoyed having people there.

All different places of church for over fifty years helped her learn about God’s love. PEO, Round Table and Bridge (and all games) were her interests.

Shirley departed this life on May 11, 2019 at Merrick Medical Center in Central City. Funeral services will be Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church with Pastor Tom Lucas officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Church. Burial will be in the Central City Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the family and condolences may be sent to the family at www.soltwagnerfunerl.com.

Those left to mourn, her husband- Jerry of Central City, NE; sons- Jay and Mary Willhoft of Grand Island, NE; Joel and Marva Willhoft of Hays, KS; James Willholft of Omaha, NE; seven grandchildren- Sasha, Tanner, Molly, Jared Willhoft, Jeff (Becky) Hulinsky, Dave (Gwen) Hulinsky, and Sara (Chris) Seim; four great grandchildren- Bethany, Matthew, Jackson and Will; Sister - Sandra (John) Ellefson of Central City; sister-in-law - Ramona (Judd) Bock of Honey Creek, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her parents; and son John.

Cemetery Details

Central City Cemetery

Central City, NE 68826

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church, Central City

Funeral Service

MAY 15. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church, Central City

Tribute Wall

JW

“ 1 file added to the album *Video of Life of Shirley June Acker Willhoft 1936 - 2019*



Jay Willhoft - May 19, 2019 at 01:57 PM

DM

What a lovely tribute to your Mom Jay. I'm so sorry for your loss :(.

Dawn May - May 19, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SD

“ *Jerry...so sorry to hear of Shirley's passing; she was a wonderful person and always ready to help anyone and everyone. Bless you all. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts.*
Steve Durbin (former member of 24th Med and part of Desert Storm deployment)

steve durbin - May 16, 2019 at 11:59 AM

JS

“ *Prayers to you Jerry, Jay, Joel, and Jim. Shirley was a great person and a lot of fun to be around. Plus she was a great cook and a wonderful part time mom to me when I was in Lincoln 1980-81. *

- Jeff Schuman

Jeff Schuman - May 15, 2019 at 01:52 PM

RK

“ Randy Killham lit a candle in memory of Shirley June Willhoft



Randy Killham - May 15, 2019 at 11:06 AM

RK

I know my Dad & Mom thought the world of Shirley & Jerry and we are all sending all our love & prayers to the entire family.

Randy Killham - May 15, 2019 at 11:08 AM



“ Sincerest Sorrow - Red and White was purchased for the family of Shirley June Willhoft.



May 14, 2019 at 09:24 AM

HM

“ Helen Solt, and Cliff, Kathy, and Amy Mesner purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Shirley June Willhoft.



Helen Solt, and Cliff, Kathy, and Amy Mesner - May 14, 2019 at 12:24 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley June Willhoft.*



May 13, 2019 at 06:27 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Shirley June Willhoft.*



May 13, 2019 at 02:29 PM



“ *I'm so very sorry to learn this. I feel like a light has gone out in this world -- but I know she's now a beacon in the next. My mom Lucy adored Shirley. Sending love and sympathy to all her family. 💜 -- Sara Hudgens Burczy*

Sara Hudgens Burczy - May 13, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ *Always friendly even during high school when most are concerned about where they fit in the pecking order and whether or not those you are friendly with were of equal status. Thankful that Shirley and Jerry always kept me in the loop even though I left the high school class a couple of years prior to graduation. So pleased that Shirley was friends with my sister Willa and her family during their years together in Central City.*

Larry Sidders - May 13, 2019 at 12:57 PM



“ *Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Shirley June Willhoft.*



May 13, 2019 at 09:14 AM



“ *Shirley was a wonderful woman. She could find something good in every person. We will miss her opinions. She has left a void in our church. our prayers go to Jerry and family.*

Linda and Norman Balliet

Norman Balliet - May 13, 2019 at 12:10 AM



“ *Many memories as the big sister to Shirley, Jerry, Bob and Phi. Please accept my deepest sympathy for all your family Jerry, Willie Desch Shafer, Lincoln, Ne.*

Willie Shafer - May 12, 2019 at 11:02 PM



“ *Thoughts and Prayers to Jerry and the Family. She was a Special Lady, now Gert and her can play cards in Heaven*



Kerry & Marlene Rodysill - May 12, 2019 at 06:13 PM

TS

Thank you. So good of you to share these comforting words at this time. It helps us to know that Mom was special to so many people, including you. We are forever in your debt.

The family of Shirley - May 17, 2019 at 09:28 AM