



Shirley Tomka

February 1, 1955 - January 10, 2021

A Celebration of Shirley's Life will be held on Saturday, May 8th (Vic & Shirley's 45th Wedding Anniversary) at the Arcadia Legion Hall at 11:00 AM (doors open at 10:30).

All family and friends are welcome to come, visit with the family and share their favorite memories of Shirley. There will be a short program followed by lunch.

Great was the sorrow of her loved ones Sunday evening, January 10, when Shirley Tomka passed away at home. It was only ten weeks ago that she was brought to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN in the hopes that an operation would give her a continued lease on life. However, after the operation, she did not improve. She returned home on November 25th and was cared for by her devoted husband, loving children and grandchildren and selfless siblings and friends. Shirley's condition grew critical on Friday, January 8th. Her family was at her bedside as she peacefully slipped away from this life into eternal life with God.

On February 1, 1955, Shirley was born at St. Anthony's Hospital in Carroll, Iowa to parents Ted and Bonnie Langel. She was raised with seven sisters and two brothers on a farm south of Templeton. Shirley attended Sacred Heart Catholic School in Templeton and Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll. She graduated as part of the class of 1973. In May 1976, Shirley received her RN from Nebraska Methodist School of Nursing.

On May 8, 1976, Shirley was united in marriage to Victor J. Tomka at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Templeton. Shortly afterward, Vic and Shirley purchased a farm southeast of Arcadia. To the union was born four children.

The living who mourn the death of their mother and mother-in-law are two sons, Joe (Kelly) Tomka and Mike (Angela) Tomka and two daughters Sara (Jeff) Anderson and Julie (John) Bittner.

Grant, Olivia, Ben, Alyssa, Eva, Haley, Kylie, Austin, Jarett, Ivonne, Jack, Parker, Cooper, Tate, and Anna will forever mourn the loss of their beloved Grandma Shirley.

Shirley was a loving sister and aunt to Ron (special friend Linda) Langel, Pat Langel, Donna Langel, Joey Langel, Carol Jean Seddon, Diane Rafferty, Kathy (Dale) Schechinger, Laurie (Mark) Mikkelsen and 26 Langel nieces and nephews. In-laws Barb (Todd) Phillippe, Ed (Joni) Tomka, Teresa Adams-Tomka, Carole Tomka, Cathy Malone,

Mary Ann (John) Kemper and 20 Tomka nieces and nephews also mourn her death. Shirley was preceded in death by two unborn angel grandbabies, her brother Bobby, parents Ted and Bonnie Langel, in-laws Vic Sr. and Mary Tomka, brother-in-law Jim Tomka and niece Elizabeth Tomka.

In the death of Shirley, our community loses one of its most respected caregivers. She had labored long and well in her nursing career. Shirley worked full-time at St. Anthony's Hospital for several years while raising her family. Shirley shared her gift of nursing and compassion toward others in multiple capacities at St. Anthony's. She worked in surgery, the emergency room, with those needing in-patient care and with nursing home residents. Shirley also worked as a travelling nurse for the American Red Cross. Although she loved her job with the Red Cross, she left that position to work as the Occupational Plant Nurse at Pella Corporation in Carroll in order to be close to her father during his battle with cancer. In the final years of her parents' lives, Shirley was a devoted and loving caregiver to them.

Shirley retired in 2018. Her zest for life and commitment to service led her to spend her time after retirement serving the community at New Hope Village Bargain Shoppe. Shirley relished visiting with coworkers and customers and regaling them, and others, with stories. In heaven, Shirley's labors will be rewarded, and she will enjoy a rest from her life well lived.

Shirley was an active member of St. John's Catholic Church in Arcadia. She served her parish in the capacity of lector, greeter, usher and in the choir. Her dedication to the community also included volunteering at Red Cross blood drives and donating gallons of blood and plasma to countless others.

Most recently, Shirley was able to experience true joy and rest from her lifetime of hard work. With the help of her grandchildren, Shirley raised chickens, turkeys, and a rabbit. She planted and tended to a vast garden. She graciously shared her homegrown bounty with her family and friends.

In recent times, Shirley and Vic traveled to Hawaii and Australia – two unforgettable and exceptional vacations. Shirley also went to Vietnam with her brother Ron and sister Donna in March 2019. She had plans to head to Africa next, having always wanted to go on a safari to see the lions. Vic and Shirley thoroughly enjoyed vacationing. He will cherish these memories with Shirley for years to come.

Vic has lost a loving and excellent wife. Joe, Sara, Mike, Julie, and their spouses have lost a kind, dedicated, true mother and friend. Shirley was an exceptionally supportive and indulgent grandmother. Hardly a day went by without her grandchildren by her side. It is a death that is indeed sad. Vic and Shirley's custom-built dream home will be a lonely one without Shirley's cheering and kindly presence.

The family requests donations in lieu of flowers, made c/o Shirley Tomka to Sharp Funeral

Home, 226 W. 8th St. Carroll, IA 51401. The donations will be used to help families with loved ones battling cancer.

Events

MAY **Celebration** 11:00AM

8

Arcadia Legion Hall

Comments



“ Judy Broich lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Judy Broich - April 28 at 09:39 AM



“ Cindy Sporrer lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Cindy Sporrer - April 27 at 08:57 PM



“ Lisa & Olivia Siepker lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Lisa & Olivia Siepker - January 23 at 02:16 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the Tomis family. Shirley was a great co worker & a lovely lady.

Paula Wittrock - January 21 at 05:27 PM



“ Kathy, so very sorry for the loss of your sister. Deepest sympathies to all.

Marlys Schmadeke - January 16 at 05:35 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Tomka families.

Bruce & Mae Vonnahme - January 15 at 03:35 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss! Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers!
Jim & Jean Eischeid

Jean Eischeid - January 15 at 11:20 AM



“ Our sympathy to the family of Shirley. We lived across the street from Ted and Bonnie and she was such a devoted daughter. Such a good example for all of us.

Mike and Denise Riddle - January 15 at 09:18 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Shirley was always so dear and kindhearted! It was a joy to have her around as a nurse whenever any family in hospital. I've been praying hard for her. Now my prayers go to you. Lovingly, Rosemary Riesberg

Rosemary Riesberg - January 14 at 04:36 PM



“ Michelle Loew lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Michelle Loew - January 14 at 02:19 PM



“ I will miss a good friend, (distant) cousin & fellow nurse. I will miss her brilliant smile & bright blue eyes. So sorry for your deep loss--she loved her whole family more than anything!

Mary Anne Lahr - January 13 at 06:54 PM



“ Linda Sporrer lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Linda Sporrer - January 13 at 10:33 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley Tomka.



January 13 at 09:48 AM



“ So enjoyed working with Shirley and having her friendship. A very positive and down to earth lady. My prayers for her family will continue. Marilyn Zimny

Marilyn Zimny - January 13 at 04:22 AM



“ I worked with Shirley at the New Hope Bargain Shoppe for almost a year and she was one of the best! She loved to talk about her family, especially the grandkids! I will miss her genuine smile! Prayers go out to the family during this difficult time.



Jaci Carlson - January 12 at 10:45 PM



“ We send our deepest sympathies to the entire family and extended families.



Pam Sebring - January 12 at 08:21 PM



“ Joe And Jamie Feauto lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Joe and Jamie Feauto - January 12 at 06:51 PM



“ I volunteered at New Hope and always enjoyed visiting with Shirley, she was a very special lady with a heart of gold, sympathy to her entire family.

Judy Beyer - January 12 at 04:52 PM



“ Shirley was such a tremendously bubbly person. She truly loved her family and her nursing career. Prayers for the whole family.

Lisa Bruch Hoffman - January 12 at 03:57 PM



“ Laurie Mikkelsen lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



laurie mikkelsen - January 12 at 03:43 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for all of your families.

Betty Petrrson - January 12 at 02:41 PM



“ So sad. She was such a wonderful mom, grandma, nurse, and all around good person. Just proves God only takes the best! So glad her and I got to reconnect while volunteering at the New Hope store. I really enjoyed our visits, Shirley! I've been thinking of and praying for your entire family. Til we meet again, my friend, I'm holding thoughts of you in my heart. Love you and your family. Patty Gehling

Patty Gehling - January 12 at 01:47 PM



“ Heaven has gained a wonderful person...friend, co-worker, nurse. I will fondly remember the good times we had working 3-11 together. Rest in peace. My sympathy to your family.



Diane Odendahl - January 12 at 11:50 AM



“ Julie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Julie Sanders - January 12 at 11:07 AM



“ Kim Tiefenthaler lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Kim Tiefenthaler - January 12 at 10:08 AM



“ Ann & Larry Anderson lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Ann & Larry Anderson - January 12 at 08:30 AM



“ Dewey Vonnahme lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Dewey Vonnahme - January 12 at 01:10 AM



“ Prayers & hugs to the Tomka family. So many great memories. I will treasure them. I will miss you, my friend. RIP Shirley.



Ronda Chase - January 11 at 11:02 PM



“ My sympathy to the Tomka family Great nurse and co - worker

Verna Tiefenthaler - January 11 at 08:59 PM



“ Prayers and peace of mind to Shirley’s family. Enjoy sharing memories. She would want us all to smile and remain strong. So enjoyed working with her and having her as a friend. Cecelia Thelen

Cecelia Thelen - January 11 at 05:50 PM



“ Jeanette Bender lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



Jeanette Bender - January 11 at 02:27 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Shirley.

Renee and Jerry Brincks - January 11 at 01:52 PM



“ What a loss of a class mate, coworker, and a great friend! You will be missed! Rest in wonderful peace!

Helen Pudenz - January 11 at 01:42 PM



“ A very kind person and great nurse! Will be missed by many

Bev Nepple - January 11 at 12:41 PM



“ MARK & JOLENE STOELK lit a candle in memory of Shirley Tomka



MARK & JOLENE STOELK - January 11 at 12:15 PM



“ Great nurse! Great lady! Rest in peace, Shirley.

Dan Mack - January 11 at 12:06 PM