



Gail Meyer

July 8, 1937 - January 25, 2015

Gail Joel' (Sandven) Meyer, 77, died Sunday January 25, 2015. Services will be held Wednesday, January 28 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines beginning with a visitation at 10:00 a.m. followed at 11:00 a.m. with a memorial service. Burial will be private.

Gail was born on July 8, 1937 to Joel and Edna Sandven in Muskegon, MI. Gail grew up in Kellogg, Iowa and later moved to Des Moines. She received a diploma from Iowa Lutheran School of Nursing and received her Bachelor's Degree of Management and Communication from Drake University. Gail had a very successful nursing and leadership career. She founded the NICU at Mercy Hospital and served as a longtime executive at the Iowa Hospital Association. In her VP role at IHA, Gail could be counted on to "get things done," always looking out for the best interest of Iowa nurses. Gail was a frequent speaker at regional and national nursing conferences and received many awards in her career, including being selected as one of Iowa's "100 Greatest Nurses."

Gail visited all 50 states and was delighted to share her adventures with family and friends. She loved sweet corn on hot summer days, but Christmas was her favorite time of the year, when she would display her cheerful village of houses and decorations. She loved nothing more than spoiling her grandchildren and loved ones. Gail was fiercely independent and was a shining example of a caring and loving daughter, mother and grandmother. Her charisma, class, wit, laugh and love will be remembered by all who knew her.

Gail is survived by two grandsons, Christopher Osborn and Ryan (Meghan) Osborn; and great-grandchildren, Luke and Mary Osborn. Gail is also survived by Dr. John Meyer, Craig Meyer, Scott Meyer and other loved ones in the Meyer family.

She was preceded in death by Joel and Edna Sandven; John Meyer; and son, Chris Osborn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Lutheran Church of Hope where Gail was a faith-filled member.

Events

JAN 28 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Lutheran Church of Hope
925 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines, IA, US, 50266

JAN 28 Memorial Service 11:00AM

Lutheran Church of Hope
925 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines, IA, US, 50266

Comments



“ I Was sorry to hear of Gail's passing. She was a classmate of mine and roomed with my wife, Rosalie in Newton after graduation for a few months. She was homecoming queen our senior year and I had the honor of crowning her at the halftime homecoming ceremony.

Bill Hinshaw

Bill Hinshaw - January 28 at 08:08 PM



“ Chris, Ryan and family thank you for the beautiful service honoring Gail today. She was a wonderful person, who in her role at IHA helped many of us find our way in nursing leadership. And while she was at it, gave us laughter, friendship and warm memories, that I will treasure always!

Dawn Bach

Dawn Bach - January 28 at 06:17 PM



“ My memories of Gail will always be accompanied by a smile and a salute for she was truly one of a kind! She was a role model of professionalism, loyalty to family, and sincere friendship to so many.

Dear Gail, stay forever young and know you were loved.

Eileen Gloor, Des Moines

Eileen Gloor - January 28 at 03:06 PM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Gail for many years through IHA and Home care. She was a delightful and insightful lady. We loved her laugh and sense of humor. She was such an advocate for us. She will be greatly missed by many. Prayers and hugs to her family. As another homecare friend said, we will always remember to 'eat dessert first'. Love you Gail!

Sherri Johnston-McDowell, Burgess Home Health/Hospice-Onawa, IA

Sherri Johnston-McDowell - January 28 at 08:31 AM



“ Gail will be missed by her nursing colleagues Her smile and energy were always present. If you needed a connection or information Gail was the go to girl. I thank her for her outstanding leadership over her career. She was a great guide to me during my tenure on the IONL board President term. I learned from her. Peg Bradke Unitypoint Cedar Rapids.

Peg Bradke - January 28 at 07:56 AM



“ Gail was a mainstay and a go-to-person when I first entered the leadership role. Her experience and guidance helped so many of us. She was a friend, a mentor, a leader and a wonderful person. I enjoyed our conversations. She was down-to-earth with a mile-wide wit and sense of humor.

My deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers go out to Gail's family and friends. She will be missed.

Joanne Nathem

Joanne Nathem - January 28 at 06:18 AM



“ Words cannot express the impact that Gail Meyer had on nursing in the state of Iowa. I remember meeting Gail many years ago as I began my career as a nurse executive. She immediately took me under her wing, offered support and advise and let me know that I would never have to do this alone. She would always be available when I had a question, needed guidance or just needed a friend to talk to.

As the years went by, our relationship grew. We attended some national conferences together, had dinner together after IHA annual meetings and had many laughs together with nursing friends across the state.

When I served on the IONL Executive Board, Gail always impressed me. She knew something about everything going on in nursing. She was always honest and open with her opinions and did an excellent job in representing nursing, no matter what the agenda.

Rest in peace, Gail. I hope that you know how many nurse's lives you positively impacted throughout your career. Thank you and God bless!

JoAnn Lampe, RN

JoAnn Lampe - January 27 at 06:19 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Gail over a period of many years while I was in administrative positions at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs and Trinity Regional in Fort Dodge. We shared professionally challenging and rewarding times--- but with Gail there was always a little fun in the mix !!! My prayers and sympathy to the family during this sad and difficult time.

Mary Corkrean

Mary Corkrean - January 27 at 06:02 PM



“ I was so saddened when I heard the news of Gail's passing. As a former member of the IONL Nursing Executive Committee, I vividly remember Gail's colorful and hilarious stories. She was widely known, loved and the life of the party. Gail was enthusiastic about life and always had a twinkle in her eye. I am grateful for the experiences we shared and wish her family my sympathy and prayers.

God Bless ~ Kay Takes

Kay Takes - January 27 at 04:58 PM



“ Gail will long be remembered as she guided Iowa Nurse Executives to continually reach new heights - As a family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. As a previous friend and colleague of Gail's, I can tell you we had our share of time and travel laughs - shopping, dining, and braodening our horizons! Dar Elbert, CNO at Kossuth Regional Health Center, Algona, IA

Dar Elbert - January 27 at 03:12 PM



“ Cecelia lit a candle in memory of Gail Meyer



Cecelia - January 27 at 12:47 PM



“ Dear Christopher and Ryan sending you peace and sending you great joy in the love you showed your grandmother. You have much to be proud of and I know how proud she was of you. You are never alone, not with all the crazy Kirvin aunties around. Love to you both.

The Lord is kind and merciful!!! Always Cece

Cecelia - January 27 at 12:50 PM



“ Gail was indeed a great friend. I will miss her so very much. Gail and I shared many things professionally and our friendship evolved into a personal one that will always be treasured. We had so many good times together, adventures on trips, one of many. She was always ready to go and have a good time. Many times she came to my house "on the farm" and she made friends with every animal we had!!!. My dogs and cats loved her and as they say when a dog or cat love the person, that person has to be a loving one. And so it goes!

She could give people strength when they needed it and must say I personally experienced that with my loss. I think she loved my Brent as much as I did!!!! That would make her laugh. The many shopping trips were something that she was always ready to do--she outlasted me many times. We would end up at one of her favorite restaurants and talk and talk over food and a few drinks. And so it goes. My friend, you have mentored so many and always was there to make sure Iowa nurses did their best. Not only me, but so many will never forget your kindness, your support, and your laughter. RIP my friend. We will meet again.

Your friend and colleague

Colee Hospers

Joseph Reimers - January 27 at 11:25 AM



“ Many special memories through the years. My sincere sympathy and prayers to your family. Vernetta Riley

Vernetta Riley - January 27 at 06:35 PM



“ JoAnne Kennebeck Jarvis purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gail Meyer.



JoAnne Kennebeck Jarvis - January 27 at 11:02 AM



“ I served as Treasurer, President Elect, and President of the Iowa Organization of Nurse Executives in the 1980's and had the opportunity to really get to know Gail and travel with her to nursing meetings. I treasure these times and have wonderful memories of the professional work we did together and the fun we had doing it. The Iowa Hospital Association and Iowa nurses have lost a great leader and I have lost a great mentor and friend. God Bless you Gail--and thanks for the memories.

Colleen Goode - January 27 at 10:11 AM



“ I always looked forward to seeing Gail at IHA. She was always smiling. What a great nursing leader!

Katie Rieks - January 27 at 09:20 AM



“ Gail was a mentor and great help to me in my nursing career. She was a wealth of information and always was a fierce advocate for nursing and small hospitals in Iowa. She was fun and always saw the humor in any situation. She will be missed and know she made a huge impact in the lives of many and influenced a great number of lives by her leadership and passion for nursing and high quality patient care.

Sue Pankey

SuePankey - January 27 at 09:07 AM



“ Gail was a great nursing leader and will be missed by all. A special thank you to her family for all of the time you shared her with the nursing profession.

Connie Lange - January 27 at 08:55 AM



“ Gail was a great nursing leader for the state of Iowa. I mainly came in contact with her at district and state meetings but she always had a friendly greeting and remembered my name. I will remember her fondly. She accomplished a great deal for healthcare in Iowa.

Thinking of your family at this time.

Alma Post - January 27 at 08:51 AM



“ Gail was a true friend and mentor to many nurses in Iowa and was known across the nation by nurses she had contact with at meetings she attended. She was aware of the needs of nurses and as an Executive at the Iowa Hospital Association, kept nursing issues in the forefront and was an advocate for nursing issues. Gail became a friend, colleague, mentor, and travel mate to me when I served on committees and as president of the Iowa Association of Nurse Executives and on the Tri-Council for Nursing. We enjoyed traveling together for healthcare related meetings, and other personal events. I cherished our

relationship and will miss her; especially her constant smile and her hardy laugh. Gail's influence made me a better person. Gail's influence had an impact on nurses, and the nursing profession in Iowa and was far reaching. She was a Great Nurse, Friend, Colleague, and always made time to listen when someone needed counsel.

I will miss you my friend! Thank you for devoting your life for the Betterment of Nurses, and Healthcare.

Karen Bossard, RN, MPH, FACHE - January 27 at 02:54 PM



“ Gail was a true nurse and leader for nurse executives in Iowa. I especially treasure the 3 years I worked with Gail and Eileen Gloor on the Nursing Workforce Project We had many laughs as well as frustrations as we surveyed the nursing workforce in Iowa. She was a great gal!.

Bonnie Wiltse - January 28 at 12:32 PM



“ Well, not certain where my beginning comments went, but please know that I respected her very much. Iowans were better served in healthcare services because of her. Sympathy to her family at this time. Mary Weaver

Mary Weaver - January 29 at 10:46 PM