



M. Joan Kuyper Farver

November 17, 1919 - February 27, 2017

M. JOAN KUYPER FARVER

Mary Joan Kuyper Farver, 97, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 27, at her residence in Pella, Iowa. Joan quietly and capably guided a family legacy as Chairman of the Board of Pella Corporation, which was founded by her late father, Peter H. Kuyper, in 1925.

Memorial Service:

Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 pm

Second Reformed Church, Pella, Iowa

Memorial Room to honor Joan:

Wednesday, March 1: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 2: 6:30 am – 8:00 pm

Friday, March 3: 6:30 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, March 4: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Pella Corporation – Kuyper Institute

102 Main Street, Pella, Iowa

Joan was a dedicated, caring philanthropist. Memorial contributions are suggested for Central College, Pella Community Foundation, or PEO Foundation, and can be left at the Memorial Room or mailed to Mary Joan Kuyper Farver Memorials, P.O. Box 66, Pella, Iowa 50219.

A Memorial website, www.joankuyperfarver.com, has been established for her family and the Pella community. It can be accessed by clicking on the [link here]www.joankuyperfarver.com

Mary Joan Kuyper was born in her family home in Pella, Iowa, on November 17, 1919. She passed away peacefully at her home in Pella, surrounded by family, on February 27.

She was 97. Joan was the first child of E. Lucille Gaass Kuyper and Peter H. Kuyper and had one brother, H. Stuart Kuyper. She was a bright child who showed an early love of music, particularly the piano and organ. Joan pursued a music degree at Grinnell College, graduating in 1941. Playing the organ was a challenge she enjoyed, but in her heart, she cherished her Steinway grand piano, a gift from her father. Throughout her life, she moved it from home to home.

During World War II, when Joan's brother Stu was stationed in Washington D.C., she moved there to be near him and found work as a secretary. It was there that she met Stu's roommate, Paul Farver, and a romance developed. Joan and Paul were married in 1945 and moved back to Pella. Paul worked at Rolscreen Company (now Pella Corporation), a thriving window and door manufacturing company founded by Joan's father in 1925.

Together, Joan and Paul raised three children: Mary, Charles and Suzanne. Joan balanced devotion to her family along with her enthusiastic participation in many community organizations including Garden Club, Second Reformed Church, PEO, and the Pella Historical Society.

Following the untimely death of her brother, Stu, in 1980, and her father, Pete, in 1981, Joan became Chairman of the Board of Rolscreen Company at the age of 61. She never had aspired to lead the company, yet she accepted this responsibility with the same grace and style that she showed in all aspects of her life. In 1995, she became Chair Emerita, and her regular factory walks were replaced with rides in a golf cart. Everyone at Pella Corporation was family to her, as well as many others in her hometown and beyond.

Later in life, Joan's modest, but firm determination served her well. She served on various boards, including Central College, Iowa Public Television, Iowa Children's and Family Services and the Iowa College Foundation, as well as the P. H. and E. Lucille Gaass Kuyper Foundation and the Pella Rolscreen Foundation. These endeavors broadened her charitable and family-centered interests.

Joan received many awards in her lifetime, including an honorary doctorate from Central College, Pella's Hall of Fame Community Service Award, and the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which recognized her lifetime achievements, contributions to society, and dedicated support of her family's Dutch heritage.

Joan recognized the importance of balancing hard work and recreation. She was an avid skier and golfer for much of her life. She enjoyed spending time with her family on the ski slopes of Colorado into her late 70s. Joan also played golf well into her later years, always finding a way to make a good shot, but mostly enjoying the beauty of nature on a sunny day. On Sundays, Joan went to church and was a lifelong member of the Second Reformed Church in Pella, singing in the choir and even playing the organ on occasion. Music always made her smile, and classical music filled her home on most days.

Joan is honored by her family members who remain: daughter Mary Griffith and her husband, Jim; son Charlie Farver and his wife, Karen; daughter Suzanne Farver and her

husband, Clint Van Zee; eight grandchildren: Chip Griffith, Amy Charters (John), Meg Ralston (Aaron), Adam Farver (Melissa), Jacob Farver (Claire), Ben Farver (Meaghan), Louisa Berky and Madeline Berky; and ten great-grandchildren: Emma and Ellie Charters, Parker and Colter Ralston, Will and Anna Kate Farver, Holt and Frances Gray Farver, and Arlo and Maeve Farver. Joan is also honored by nephew Pete Kuyper (Jackie) and niece Carol Kuyper Rosenberg; great-nephews Michael Kuyper (Jill), Bryce Kuyper and Richard Rosenberg; great-niece Angie Rosenberg; and great-great nephews Timothy and Daniel Kuyper, and Camden Juhlin.

Joan's life exemplified integrity, generosity and love. She will be dearly missed by her family, her Pella Corporation 'family,' and all who knew her.

Events

APR **Service church** 01:00PM

22

Second Reformed Church

612 Broadway Street, Pella, IA, US, 50219

Comments



“ Being Pella residents and employees at the Pella plant, our family was grateful for the years of wonderful service. We can well remember Joan walking through the plant occasionally.

Jay Driesen Inwood, IA

Jay Driesen - March 05, 2017 at 10:07 PM



“ All of us at Des Moines Metro Opera are saddened to hear the news of Joan's passing. Joan's support of and advocacy of the arts in Iowa for many generations served as a example for all of us to follow. Without Joan's help, hundreds of thousands of Iowa students who have experience OPERA Iowa in their schools for over 30 years would not have had access to any experience at all with the arts. She will be dearly missed. Michael Egel and Robert L. Larsen, Des Moines Metro Opera

Michael Egel - March 05, 2017 at 12:05 PM



“ So sad to hear of the passing of Joan Kuyper Farver. She was so kind and generous with her time and talent. When ever she toured the plant she got out among the employees and talked with them about what ever was important at the time. She will be truly missed by everyone who knew her. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all.



Robert & Mary Pinegar - March 03, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ A candle for an amazing wonderful lady. Beth & Aaron Fletcher





“ I don't know & have never meet Joan. I only know my husband speaks very highly of her & her family. So sorry to hear of her passing. Prayers & positive thoughts for all.

Sincerely, Shauna Hare

Shauna Hare - March 02, 2017 at 08:54 PM



“ Fayette Butler lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Fayette Butler - March 01, 2017 at 05:44 AM



“ My heart goes out to the family of Joan Kuyper Farver at this time of loss. My the strength of God help you all at this time. Thoughts and prayers are sent to you all.

Fayette Butler - March 01, 2017 at 05:46 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of such a beautiful lady!



Carol Jansen - February 28, 2017 at 06:27 PM



“ Pella Products of Kansas City purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of M. Joan Kuyper Farver.



Pella Products of Kansas City - February 28, 2017 at 04:46 PM



“ Good bye to a lovely woman full of grace and kindness, a woman I've known my entire life, a woman that was such a dear dear friend to all my Grandparents for decades and decades. Grandma Elva May has had a few years to scope out the good bridge tables so I'm sure they have already played a few hands. It makes me smile when I think about no matter how deaf my grandma Elva May got in her later years..... she could always hear Joan. God bless the entire Farver/Kuyper clan. Julie Heerema Mueller

Julie Heerema Mueller - February 28, 2017 at 08:31 AM



“ A lion of Pella has passed. What a warm, gracious, generous woman she was, never seeking the spotlight but dedicated to making her community better. May we all carry that spirit forward.

Anne Petrie - February 28, 2017 at 08:29 AM



“ Judy Olson lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Judy Olson - February 28, 2017 at 08:01 AM



“ Sandy Garrison lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



sandy garrison - February 28, 2017 at 07:53 AM



“ Dan And Marla Thomas lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Dan and Marla Thomas - February 28, 2017 at 07:36 AM



“ From my family with love and admiration. Amanda (Pierson) Binns



Amanda Binns - February 28, 2017 at 01:23 AM



“ Amanda Binns lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Amanda Binns - February 28, 2017 at 01:21 AM



“ Deanna Klobnak lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Deanna Klobnak - February 27, 2017 at 11:24 PM



“ Nancy Kelderman lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



nancy kelderman - February 27, 2017 at 11:00 PM



“ Joan lived a very full life. I always enjoyed our walks and talks together. I would always think of her and Pete, when I passed by his office. Days when He and my Grandfather would talk construction. Joan was Daddy's girl and she shared inspiration all along her way. She will be missed by so very many. May those that loved her find comfort and strength at this time of sadness and loss.

nancy kelderman - February 27, 2017 at 11:06 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of M. Joan Kuyper Farver.



February 27, 2017 at 09:54 PM



“ Bonnie Richards lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Bonnie Richards - February 27, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ Jolene Zickel lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Jolene Zickel - February 27, 2017 at 08:20 PM



“ Ninya Miller lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Ninya Miller - February 27, 2017 at 07:19 PM



“ Daniel Zickel lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Daniel Zickel - February 27, 2017 at 06:51 PM



“ My favorite Sunday School teacher and a great lady. I still remember the postcard she sent me of the Collisium in Rome. We had talked about it Sunday School and she remembered that later in the year when she was there. I must have been about 10 at the time.

Kirk Caldwell - February 27, 2017 at 05:28 PM



“ Laura Cordero lit a candle in memory of M. Joan Kuyper Farver



Laura Cordero - February 27, 2017 at 05:24 PM



“ We met this very gracious lady as we were standing in line to attend an activity at Central College about 30 years ago. We had not lived in Pella very long. Brad was working at the Flying Dutchman Ranch. I am sure I was the only one in the line who didn't realize who I was talking with. The conversation was natural and easy and Joan was very friendly. She reminded me of my aunt and my mom. Only later did I realize who she was. Several years after that, we both became employees of Pella Corporation and Joan's natural friendliness and genuine kindness never changed. We alternate between tears and smiles today as we think of her. We love you Joan. Brad and Julie Flory.

Julie Flory - February 27, 2017 at 04:48 PM