



Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey

May 21, 1934 - June 8, 2022

Marlyn J. Humphrey, 88, of Iowa Falls, passed away Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at his Iowa Falls residence. Memorial services will be 1:00 PM Saturday, June 18, 2022 at the Iowa Falls Fire Department. He will be laid to rest with full firefighter honor guard at the Union Cemetery in Iowa Falls. Visitation will be from 11:00 AM until service time on Saturday, June 18 at the fire department. Counsell Woodley Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Iowa Falls is caring for Chief Marlyn Humphrey and his family.

Marlyn Joe Humphrey was born May 21, 1934 the son of Clarence and Anna (Grupe) Humphrey, in rural Iowa Falls, IA. Marlyn attended Ellis #2 in rural Iowa Falls and graduated from Iowa Falls High School in 1952. He and Dorothy Jergensen Smith were married in January 1981.

Marlyn had always wanted to be a farmer (his favorite class was FFA), and he did farm for a few years south of Iowa Falls. However, he couldn't get enough land, so the next best thing for him was to purchase his own milk route, supplying the local creamery. After recovering from a serious back injury incurred on his milk route, Marlyn managed service stations, and eventually leased his own DX Station and wrecker service. He transitioned into owning and operating a DX tankwagon. In the 1980s, Marlyn began selling fire equipment. He and Dorothy also owned and operated a business selling and servicing fire extinguishers.

Marlyn joined the Iowa Falls volunteer fire department in 1968, recruited by Ernest Winters, for among other things, his ability to drive big trucks. He was appointed third assistant chief in 1974 by then Fire Chief Earl Bailey. Marlyn became fire chief in 1978, elected by the members of his department. He served 26 years as chief, the second longest serving fire chief for the department. He was proud of the new Iowa Falls Fire Department building and training center, something he had promised Earl Bailey he would do, and appreciative of a community that supported it. He also took pride in the well-trained department, one of the top in the state. After serving 41 years in the fire department, Marlyn retired in 2009.

Marlyn discovered as a young boy that he had a talent for whistling. He enjoyed telling stories of whistling at country school, at Alden Days, on the radio, after dance parties and at many other events. He joined the Moose Lodge in 1960 and held many offices there over the years. Marlyn was a member of the First Christian Church and served as president of the church council.

Marlyn enjoyed keeping in touch with his country school and high school classmates, whistling, singing, fishing, and socializing.

Marlyn Humphrey is survived by his wife, Dorothy Humphrey; his children, Becky (Doug) Swinton, Mark (Karen) Humphrey, Joe (Sharlene) Humphrey, Steve Humphrey, Dawn Humphrey, Tom (Ann) Humphrey, Peg (Art) Bradley, Nancy (Kevin) Hoffman, and step-children, Debbie (Abe) Khashan, Rich (Carol) Smith, and Ron (Lori) Smith; one nephew, Jim (Alexa) Granzow and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Dorothy Granzow Gaulke; two brothers-in-law; a nephew and a step-son.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Iowa Falls Fire Department
218 South River Street
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Service

JUN 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

Iowa Falls Fire Department
218 South River Street
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey.*



June 17, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey.*



June 15, 2022 at 11:07 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Deb Brown - June 14, 2022 at 10:48 AM

MK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had the honor to work many fire investigations with Marlyn as well as fire training and just plain fun times. I truly enjoyed calling him my friend and he will be missed by me and my family. He gave so much to the fire service around Iowa as well as Iowa Falls. My God bless you all. Mike Keefe, Clear Lake, Iowa.

Mike Keefe - June 13, 2022 at 06:32 PM



Thank you so much. He loved what he did and those he worked with. Becky Humphrey Swinton, daughter

Becky Swinton - June 13, 2022 at 08:12 PM

DH

Thank you so much Mike. Marlyn enjoyed working side by side with doing inspections, And most certainly enjoyed visiting with you. Dorothy

Dorothy Humphrey - June 14, 2022 at 10:39 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey.



June 13, 2022 at 04:21 PM

TK

“ *The Knights lit a candle in memory of Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey*



The Knights - June 10, 2022 at 03:48 PM

TK

Dorothy & family, Thinking of you & yours; always enjoyed visiting with you at our monthly coffees. Marlyn will be missed.

The Knights - June 10, 2022 at 03:52 PM

WS

“ *Dorothy & family....we are saddened to hear of Marlyn’s passing... many fond memories of all our fire chief events with you two especially fire conferences....he was a fun loving guy but yet sincere....our deepest sympathy.....Wayne & Marleen Schipper, LeMars.*

Wayne/Marleen Schippet - June 10, 2022 at 08:16 AM

CF

“ *Liz and I offer sincere sympathy to Dorothy and family, For over 20 years we were neighbors and you both quietly took care of us as neighbors do.*



Cindy McDonald Forr - June 09, 2022 at 08:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Chief Marlyn J. Humphrey.*



June 09, 2022 at 03:12 PM



“ *My thoughts are with you Mark & Joe (and the rest of the family). In addition to appreciating your dad during our school days in IF, I also had his support while I was Chief of the Hardin County Emergency Squad. Marlyn will be missed.*

Chuck Kelsey

Chuck Kelsey - June 09, 2022 at 01:24 PM



Thank you, Chuck

Becky Swinton - June 09, 2022 at 03:02 PM



“ *While I served as Police Chief in IF, Marlyn was Fire Chief. I couldn't have asked for a better friend to have. We met almost every morning for coffee and visiting. He will be deeply missed!*

Doug Strike

Doug Strike - June 08, 2022 at 10:22 PM



Thank you, Doug. Becky

Becky Swinton - June 09, 2022 at 03:00 PM

DB

*Thanks Doug, so glad you stopped to see him. He really enjoyed that.
He spoke of you so often
Dorothy*

Deb Brown - June 14, 2022 at 11:04 AM