



Waltraut "Wally" Tonjes

April 9, 1930 - February 7, 2022

Waltraut "Wally" Tonjes, 91, of Tipton, Iowa, formerly of Hampton, passed away Monday, February 7, 2022, at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. A public visitation will be take place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 11 at the Fry Funeral Home in Tipton. Funeral services will be held immediately following the visitation. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, February 12 in the Hampton Cemetery.

Waltraut Ruth Tonjes was born April 9, 1930, in Tilsit, East Prussia to parents Franz and Meta Wagner. She was the oldest of seven children. Wally spent her childhood moving around Germany with her family. Growing up in World War II era Germany was an unimaginable hardship for Wally and her family, but you would never hear a complaint from her. That difficult chapter of her life shaped her into the woman she would become.

On the night of her 18th birthday Wally went out to a dance, and while she was there she met the love of her life, Gus Tonjes. The two dated for several years, then Gus moved to America. He told Wally he would either send for her to join him, or come back to Germany to be with her. Gus kept his word, and they were reunited in Mason City, Iowa on April 13, 1955. Less than three months later, on June 5, 1955, they were united in marriage at the Hansell Methodist Church. To this union one child was born, their daughter Judy.

Wally graduated high school and attended business school in Germany before moving to America. Once she was in Hampton, she worked several jobs. She worked at the Trading Post grocery store, B & W, Seven Stars Restaurant, and at Hardee's. Wally and Gus made a combined 17 trips back to Germany over the years. They traveled all over the U.S. as well. She enjoyed baking, and always had time for coffee, cake, and visiting with her friends and family.

Wally was a caring and loving person, and anyone she met knew it right away. She loved her grandkids, and adored her great-grandson. She will be sorely missed by those lucky enough to know her. To use her own words, she is "going back to be with her sweetheart."

She is survived by her daughter, Judy (Rick) Rouse of Tipton, grandchildren, Emilie (Kameron) Hein and their son Maverick of Bennett, Kellie Rouse of Tipton, brother, Reinhardt Wagner of Germany, numerous nieces and nephews, and her sister-in-law, Anita Tonjes of Germany.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gus, four sisters, and a brother.

The Counsell Woodley Funeral Home of Hampton is caring for Wally and her family.

Cemetery Details

Hampton Cemetery

Hampton, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Fry Funeral Home
220 E 6th St
Tipton, IA 52772

Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Fry Funeral Home
220 E 6th St
Tipton, IA 52772

Burial

FEB 12. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM.

Hampton Cemetery
Hampton, IA

Tribute Wall

TH

“ We thought the world of Gus and Wallie and will never forget them and their love for each other.

Tim and Deb Harrison - February 16, 2022 at 10:25 PM

KH

“ I grew up by the Trading Post. I loved to go down there and visit her as a little girl, listening to her stories and her accent. She was always so patient and kind!! Heaven gained a great angel!!!

Kim Hershey - February 15, 2022 at 12:08 PM

PK

“ Judy and family,,b
Chris called me earlier this week to inform me of Wally's passing. I pwas instantly filled with so many memories of Wally. When I was still working at Cedar Manor I would always try to answer her call light during the night. We always "danced" together to the bathroom and then" danced" back to the bed. together. One night she showed me a new dance move. I put her back to bed and she did and new dance step. I immediately did 2 new dance steps. She watched, sneered, looked at me and said "show off". I laughed all of the way back to the nurses station. I could always count on Wally to raise my spirits, no matter how bad the night was going. I will miss her forever hug I know you all will too. I am so very sorry for your loss and please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Much love to you all and a special hug to Judy, who will miss her the most. Pat Keys



Pat Keys - February 12, 2022 at 01:59 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Waltraut "Wally" Tonjes.



February 10, 2022 at 05:32 PM



“ I will miss my hugs and a kiss on the cheek she was a beautiful lady and heaven gained an angel they will love her laugh up there xoxo

Brenda Cerwinske - February 10, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ Wally came to our beauty shop for years! She was a bright spot in this world! Always a giggle or a wiggle! She will be missed! ❤️❤️❤️

Nadine Goodwin - February 09, 2022 at 11:27 PM



“ Wow! What a unique little lady. Lived by my mom for around 40 years, was a great friend to all, and always ready to help out. I know her family will miss her greatly. Love you Wally!!!

Valerie Witcraft - February 09, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ Judy so sorry about your mom she raised a wonderful daughter.

Pam Schwieger - February 09, 2022 at 05:38 PM