



## Rosamond Kemmerer

December 21, 1913 - September 13, 2014

Rosamond E. Kemmerer, beloved teacher and community volunteer, died Sunday morning, September 7, 2014, at Westhaven Community in Boone, Iowa. Rosamond was born December 21, 1913, the first child of Walton M. and Hazel Pearl (Francis) Stumbo, at her parents' farm in Marcy Township, Boone County Iowa. She remembered walking behind her parents as they picked corn by hand, and surviving the 1918 cyclone, by taking refuge under the concrete bridge just south of Bethel Church in Marcy Township. She grew up during the depression and remembered working hard to help save the family farm. She often talked about the fun that she and her brothers, Francis and Verne, had with their participation in church youth music activities, community ball teams and other youth activities. She attended Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) during the summers and taught at Centennial School, a one room country school in Marcy Township during the regular school year, obtaining her two year teacher's certificate in 1938. In 1963 she obtained her Bachelors Degree in Education from Drake University. Rosamond married Arthur E. "Art" Kemmerer in June of 1939, and they settled in Boone, Iowa, where they had two children, Jon and Leila. She taught elementary school in the Boone Community School District until she retired in 1979 after 31 years, touching the lives of many children along the way. She also taught Sunday School and Junior Church for many years at Central Christian Church in Boone. After her husband died in 1990, she devoted her time to volunteer work at church and called on church members and friends who were shut-ins or in nursing homes. She taxied many friends to doctors' offices and other appointments. At Central Christian Church, she was a member of CWF and the Loyal Friends class, and was church librarian. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Retired Teachers' Association, and AARP. Rosamond was independent and "sassy," and was able to stay at home until late 2011 when she moved to Westhaven Community Assisted Living. Most recently she was a resident at Westhaven Community Nursing Home. Approximately 200 people came to honor her at her 100th birthday reception in late 2013. Many former students wrote to say how she had changed the course of their education and helped them to successful careers. She is survived by her son Jon Kemmerer and wife Elaine of Ely, Iowa, and her daughter Leila Carlson and husband Jerry of Des Moines; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; her brother Verne Stumbo; and her

nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be held on Saturday morning, September 13th at 11:00 a.m. at the Stark-Welin Chapel in Boone with Chaplain Jeff McDowell officiating. Visitation will be held in the Chapel at Westhaven Community, 112 West 4th Street in Boone on Friday evening, September 12th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with the family present during that time to greet friends. Visitations will continue at the Stark-Welin Chapel prior to the service on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery southwest of Boone next to Bethel Church, her childhood church home. In lieu of flowers, it was her request that memorial contributions be made to Central Christian Church, Boone, Iowa.

# Comments

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“ My sympathies to all the friends and family of Mrs. Kemmerer. We all have memories of very special teachers that we carry with us all of our lives and Mrs. Kemmerer was most special to me. I was blessed to have had her for my 4th grade teacher at Bryant school and I know I'm only one of so many students that had their lives positively influenced and touched by this very kind, spirited, and passionate professional educator.

**Jim Seitz** - September 16, 2014 at 01:08 PM

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“ Dear Family of Rosamond,  
I was the secretary at Central Christian Church from 1998 to 2008. I had many occasions to spend time with Rosamond and she became one of my favorite people at Central Christian. She was always so cheerful and uplifting, would always poke her head into my office door to say a cheery hello. She never forgot Secretary's Day and I never forgot her or her birthday. I visited her once at Hancock Apts. We now live there and was informed that we are in the same apartment that she lived in. She was a very special lady. She will be missed.

**Gladys Walker** - September 13, 2014 at 07:50 PM

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“ Rosamond was a force of nature! She was an awesome lady. I was lucky enough to get to know her through Delta Kappa Gamma. Her energy and positive outlook was inspiring to all.

**Sharon Moore** - September 11, 2014 at 07:16 PM

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“ My adoration of Mrs. Kemmerer goes back to having her as my 3rd grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School. My parents are Arthur and Martha Buechler, formerly living 4-1/2 miles north of Boone on Division Street. I met Rosamond again in Feb,2009, when she arrived at Westhaven with many valentines for the residents, as she helped with the annual Valentines Party. My parents were then temporary residents, while Dad needed rehab after his total knee surgery. Rosamond always claimed to be "sassy", that was her humor, and her true personality. I have enjoyed visiting with her numerous times at Westhaven, while I visited my parents(from my home in San Diego) since my parents became residents (Jan 2012) in Asst Care, and skilled nursing areas. Rosamond was always very cheerful, always called me by name, and remembered so much of our history back in 3rd grade. She was so sharp mentally ...truly an amazing woman! God saw that she should be a ray of sunshine to everyone she touched, and she brought so much joy to those around her. May you have comfort during this time of your loss, but know that She lived a wonderful, fulfilled life, and is making a better place for her family to join her again someday. She was truly an inspiration to everyone! All our love, Bud and Barb (Buechler) Fosdick, 11327 McBurney Rdg Ln, San Diego, CA 92131

**Barbara Buechler Fosdick** - September 10, 2014 at 03:49 PM

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“ To the family of Rosamond Kemmerer. May God give you the strength and comfort during your loss. I remember Rosamond when she use to come to the AARP meetings and all the good times we had. I admired her for all the caring she had for others and all the visiting of people she would go and see. I use to live in Boone but now I live in Marion,Iowa.

**Margie Mitchell** - September 09, 2014 at 10:24 PM

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“ I will miss your friendship that we shared and the wisdom you shared with me.

**sandy madden** - September 09, 2014 at 06:47 PM