



Ardith Mae Hartford

July 8, 1936 - September 7, 2020

Memorials may be made to Westside Church, the American Heart Association, or Special Olympics Nebraska.

Ardith Mae Hartford was born on July 8, 1936 to David Wendell and Helen (Zehnder) Hughes in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ardith grew up in Lincoln, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1954. As a girl, she was active in choir, Glee Club, YWCA Teens, and church activities. She also enjoyed sewing, reading, and babysitting. Ardith received her Bachelors of Science in Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 1958.

Ardith married Richard “Dick” Hartford on June 6, 1959 at the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. To this union, four children were born: Timothy William, Jeanne Elizabeth, Alan Hughes, and Jill Renee. Ardith and Dick spent their early years in Valley before moving to Fremont in 1970. They raised their family there until they came to Omaha in 1986.

One of Ardith’s first jobs was to operate the elevator at the JC Penney’s store in Lincoln. She taught typing, short hand, office practice and home economics in Waterloo. Ardith and Dick owned the Valley theater; she sold tickets and concessions, while Dick ran the film projector. She taught as a substitute teacher at Fremont High School after leaving teaching full time to stay home with her children. In the mid ‘70s, Ardith worked at Bell Typewriter and Office

Equipment, the family business. She started working at Valmont as an administrative assistant in 1980 and later joined the company Dain Bosworth in Omaha. In 1988, Ardith began teaching part time at Nebraska College of Business and transitioned to full time teaching of keyboarding, DeskTop Publishing, and related courses. She retired in 2001 and looked forward to spending more time with her grandchildren.

Ardith enjoyed all sorts of craft projects and went to ceramics classes weekly in the '70s and '80s. She also liked to read, bake, and was the first in her family to take up digital photography when it was still in its early stages. Ardith especially loved to travel. Ardith and Dick went to Europe three times and took countless cross-country road trips to visit and babysit the grandkids. When her children were young, Ardith and Dick would take their kids on family weekend camping trips to Camp Moses Merrill near Linwood, Nebraska. Ardith's love to travel continued into her retirement. She enjoyed flying to California, Chicago or Philadelphia to spend a few weeks visiting Alan and dog sitting, while he spoiled her with shopping trips, sightseeing, and dining out. Ardith and Dick took a trip to Alaska to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 2009.

Ardith and Dick volunteered at the Rose Children's Theater and enjoyed taking their grandchildren to performances. As they became old enough, Zach, Jacob, Becky, Andie and Bryson would volunteer alongside their grandparents, sharing many special memories. Ardith and Dick also volunteered at the Holland Center for the Performing Arts and the Orpheum Theater as members of the Ambassadors. They were members of the Baptist Presbyterian Church in Valley, First Baptist in Fremont, and Westside Church in Omaha. Ardith sang in the choir at all three churches, was in the women's Rebecca Circle at First Baptist Fremont, and a member of Christian Business Women of Fremont.

Ardith loved seeing her children and grandchildren graduate from high school,

college, and graduate school. Education and a strong work ethic were very important to her and something she passed along to her children. Ardith's family will always think of her as an extremely intelligent, compassionate, and generous mother and grandmother.

Ardith passed away September 7, 2020 at Methodist Hospital in Omaha at the age of 84 years old. She was preceded in death by her parents David Wendell and Helen (Zehnder) Hughes and her brother David Elwyn Hughes. Ardith is survived by her loving husband of over 61 years, Richard; her children: Timothy (Teresa) Hartford of Pleasant Prairie, WI, Jeanne Kalina of Omaha, Alan Hartford of Medford, MA, and Jill (Gerald) Huebert of Omaha; 11 grandchildren; 2 great-grandsons; brother Arthur (Patricia) Hughes of Bethesda, MD; sister Nancy (Daniel) Gamber of Washington, D.C.; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and sisters- and brothers-in-law.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Ardith Mae Hartford



Reichmuth Funeral Home - September 11, 2020 at 10:46 AM



What a beautiful memorial, thank you for sharing this live! Rest in peace Ardith. Hugs and deepest sympathies to your entire family.

Lynn Cohen - September 11, 2020 at 02:55 PM

KP

Thank you for having this video and we can watch it at a later time. We send our love .

Kim Pollmann - September 12, 2020 at 05:57 PM

ND

Our sympathy to your family. Thank you for sharing the beautiful memorial video.

Jim & Norma Driver

Norma & Jim Driver - September 14, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ Ardith Mae Hartford

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *A mother’s love is a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime!
Thinking of you all in this time of loss and praying precious
memories of your wife/mom will be a blessing for many years to
come.
May you feel the Lord’s love and comfort!
Valerie (Hughes) Johnson*

Valerie Johnson - September 11, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ *I remember playing as a child at Grandmas house. She always kept
my old toys. It was special seeing them as I grew up, remembering
my childhood at her house. Or the times I would use her banister to
climb up like Indiana Jones escaping from a snake pit. I don’t think
she ever liked that I did that, but I think she tolerated it appreciating
childlike imagination and play. My time at her house and with my
grandma was special. She will be greatly missed. I know she was
loved by her entire family and friends. My heart is with you all.*

Ryan Hartford - September 11, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ We remember Ardith went they lived on the street south of us when we lived in Valley. Our Julie was born in February and Timmy in the spring. The Baptist Presbyterian Church choir had a joint baby shower for us. We got blue items and she got pink.

We did not have a camera when Julie was born so the first pictures we have of her were taken by the Hartfords.

We have shared our news of our growing families for many years. We will miss seeing and visiting with Ardith but are happy that she is not longer experiencing pain and she is in a place which is beyond our wildest imaginations.

Tom and Valerie Wollen

Tom Wollen - September 11, 2020 at 01:59 PM

DH

“ Uncle Dick, Tim, Jeanne, Alan, Jill and families,
Prayers are being said for your comfort at the loss of your
wife/mom. I wish for different times where we could be together to
share our fond memories. Know that I am with you in thought and
through prayer.

Aunt Ardith always seemed to know what was going on in my life.
She would ask caring questions and offer support as I traveled
through life's joys and challenges. My greatest memory is of the
many Easter gatherings. I don't remember them being in Valley but
certainly remember Fremont and Omaha. When our families got
together we created a small crowd. How she managed to get all that
food ready and on the table was admirable. Didn't the "Wizard of
Oz" always play on Easter?

Another memory was the "November Birthdays" get together. While
I was a part of the 'club' I often wondered why only the November
birthdays were honored - most likely because of grandpa. When I
too chose to enter the teaching profession I fondly recall the gift of a
desk set that was presented to me at my graduation from UNL. All
these years later, I still have part of the set.

May the memories of your wife's/mom's love give you comfort.
Treasure your memories close to your heart and share them with
each other. Ardith will be missed and there will be an empty spot at
your family events but the way she touched our lives will live on
through traditions and each of you.

I am picturing Ardith and her brother (my dad) joyfully reuniting and
celebrating being with Jesus in heaven. I find comfort in knowing
she has been welcomed into her heavenly home.

In time, we will gather to honor your wife/mom. For now, be
reminded, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." - Thomas
Moore and "The arms that welcomed your wife/mom into heaven
are the same arms that hold your heart today."

Sending love and hugs,
Deanna

Deanna Hughes - September 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JH

yes Wizard of Oz was part of the family tradition as well as the annual family football game

Jill Huebert - September 12, 2020 at 02:49 PM

MA

“ *Marta purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ardith Mae Hartford.*



Marta - September 10, 2020 at 11:04 PM

DE

“ *Our condolences to Dick and the rest of Ardith's family.*

Dave and Myong Hui Ellis - September 10, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ardith Mae Hartford.*



September 10, 2020 at 05:27 PM

AH

“ *Arthur H. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ardith Mae Hartford.*



Arthur H. - September 10, 2020 at 12:27 PM



John
Gibbs

“ *My entire life, Ardith (and Dick), have been synonymous with "Church," as they were a part of my childhood and later churches. As an adult, I realized that "Church" was not the proper term, rather "Jesus" better-described her. She had more loving kindness than most, and there are countless lives better because of her.*

Much love and prayer to Dick, Alan, Jill and the entire family.

John Gibbs - September 10, 2020 at 09:27 AM



JH

Thanks John! Wish we could see you and catch up. Hopefully sometime in the near future.

Jill Huebert - September 10, 2020 at 11:37 AM