

Maxine Anne Kloppenburg Brammer



Maxine Anne Kloppenburg Brammer was born on February 16, 1935, in Everly, Iowa, to Kermit and Elma Kloppenburg. She was born at home on the farm and was delivered by a doctor who arrived by horse and sleigh. Maxine attended a one-room schoolhouse for six years and then took the school bus to school in Hartley, Iowa. Maxine was a proud Iowa farm girl and she decided to follow in her mother Elma's career footsteps by attending the University of Iowa to study nursing. She met Chuck Brammer at a nursing/pharmacy mixer. She always said she could still picture him walking toward her across the dance floor, smoothing down his hair. They married on July 8,

1956, and she graduated with her BSN in 1957.

The couple moved to Muscatine, Iowa, where Chuck opened his first drugstore, Bramway Pharmacy. While living there, Maxine became the first woman elected to the Muscatine General Hospital Board of Trustees. Maxine and Chuck then purchased Neitzel's Pharmacy in Muscatine. She and Chuck raised four children there until 1977 when they moved to Grinnell, Iowa, to open a new drugstore, Brammer Pharmacy. Maxine started working at Grinnell Regional Medical Center as nurse manager of the medical-surgical floor, and then later became an infection control nurse, employee health coordinator, and nationally certified Diabetes Educator for the hospital. She remained very proud of all her nursing accomplishments.

Maxine retired in 2000 and she and Chuck moved to North Liberty, Iowa. They spent their retirement years having adventures around the world to places such as Alaska, Switzerland, Hawaii and Turkey. Maxine and Chuck were very active in Parkview Church in Iowa City, and she spent many hours gathering supplies for thousands of Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse with some special friends. After spending several winters in Gulf Shores, Ala., with Duane and Arlene Brammer, they decided to head for warmer climates permanently and moved to The Villages, Fla., in 2011. While there, they were charter members and helped found Live Oaks Community Church, where they made many wonderful, lasting friendships. In 2018, they moved to Eagan, Minn., due to some health issues and to be closer to family.

Chuck and Maxine were avid Hawkeye fans and enjoyed many basketball and football games and wrestling matches over the years. Together, they also raised and showed a number of quarter horses, including one that became a world champion, which they were very proud of. As well as being a deeply committed member of the Gideon's Women's Auxiliary, Maxine was a Master Gardener who loved her flowers and always took time to answer others' questions about gardening. She had an adventurous spirit and went up in a hot air balloon, parasailed, sky dived, white water rafted, snorkeled in Key West, rode Segways and enjoyed being a drover with Chuck on a weeklong cattle drive.

She loved God and was a strong Christian and prayer warrior, and she loved all of her family dearly. Maxine was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Ken and her husband Chuck. She is survived by her four children, Brad (Claudia) of Rosemount, Minn., Todd (Kim) of Salinas, Calif., Julie (Rick) of Ellison Bay, Wisc. and Nathan (Julie) of Ames, Iowa, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends, but what a reunion with Chuck and many other loved ones in Heaven! Memorials may be made to The Gideon's International.

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