

## MaryBelle Crosby

April 15, 1927 - October 29, 2020

MaryBelle Crosby, 93, of Fremont, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, October 29, 2020, at her son's home in Fremont. She was born April 15, 1927, in Oskaloosa, the daughter of Cornelius John "Neal" and Maude Blackman Coster. She rode her pony to country school in Marion County. Following elementary school, she went on to graduate from Knoxville High School with the class of 1945. She furthered her education by taking clerical training in Des Moines. She stayed in Des Moines after her training and worked in various offices. On December 30, 1947 she was united in marriage to Wilbur Boyd Crosby at the Knoxville Christian Church in Knoxville. Following their marriage, MaryBelle stayed home to help Wilbur on the farm and take care of her family and home. In 1960, they moved from their farm near Knoxville, to a farm homestead in Fremont. In the mid-70's, MaryBelle worked for a short time at Big Smith overall factory in Oskaloosa and was a member of the Fremont Saddle Club. In the 80's, MaryBelle worked at the Fremont Gazette addressing papers, before going to work for the Fremont Casey's in 1989 to 2009 as a donut maker. MaryBelle was an active member of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church near Knoxville, before transferring her membership to the First Baptist Church in Fremont. MaryBelle was a talented seamstress and darned countless socks. She took great pride in mending & repairing her sons motorcycle racing clothing and sewed on countless Scout Merit badges and patches for her grandchildren. MaryBelle was an exceptional cook and baker whose homemade bread, rolls and pies were second to none. In July of 2011

she entered the Pie Baking contest at the Sweet Corn Serenade in Oskaloosa and WON 1st place with her Apple Pie. MaryBelle loved the farm, even after she and Wilbur retired from farming, MaryBelle continued to walk beans and spray Canadian thistles for her son Larry. MaryBelle was a devoted housewife, mother, and grandmother who loved to spend time with her family. She loved to go to the State Fair, Adventureland, the skating rink, motorcycle rides from her sons and countless other family activities. MaryBelle was an avid photographer and lover of music who would go to see Storm Seymour perform every chance she got. Most recently, MaryBelle picked up playing dominos.

MaryBelle was a devoted child of God who was kind and caring with a heart of gold that never met a stranger and was always there to help others. MaryBelle is survived by her four children and their spouses, Boyd and Cathy Crosby of Iowa City, Larry and Mindy Crosby of Fremont, Paul and Carol Crosby of Santa Paula, California, and Susan and Jamie Leonard of Oskaloosa; a daughter in law (Michael's widow), Merry Crosby of Des Moines; ten grandchildren, Allison (Heath) Brewer, Summer (Duane) Williams, Katie (Will) Maupin, Bradley (fiancée Nicole Drummond) Crosby, Chad Crosby, Brenda (Colton) Reinhard, Amy Cash, Bob Leonard, William Leonard, Annabelle Leonard; fifteen great grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Eleanor Coster of New Sharon; and many nieces and nephews.

MaryBelle was preceded in death by her husband Wilbur in 2005, her parents; three sons, infant twins James and Jack, and Michael Crosby; and a brother, John C. Coster.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the First Baptist Church in Fremont with Reverend Robb Bruns officiating. Burial will be in the Gosport Cemetery near Knoxville. The Fremont Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. According to the rules put in place

by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment is advised for attending a religious public event. The funeral service will be live streamed at the funeral home's YouTube Channel for those wishing to support the family from a distance. Visitation will begin Tuesday, November 10, 2020, after 12 noon in the First Baptist Church in Fremont, the family will be at the church from 4-7 Tuesday evening to greet friends and relatives. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church in Fremont.

# Cemetery Details

## Gosport Cemetery

103rd Ave  
Knoxville, IA 50138

# Previous Events

## Open Visitation

NOV **10**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
133 S Walnut Street  
Fremont, IA 52561

## Family Visitation

NOV **10**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
133 S Walnut Street  
Fremont, IA 52561

## Funeral Service

NOV **11**. 10:00 AM (CT)

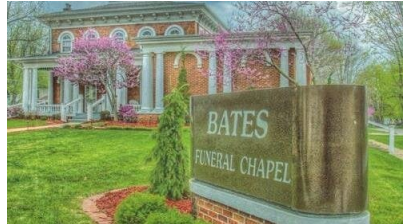
First Baptist Church  
133 S Walnut Street  
Fremont, IA 52561



# Tribute Wall



“ *Fremont Funeral Chapel created a Bates Funeral Chapel You Tube Channel in memory of MaryBelle Crosby*



Fremont Funeral Chapel - November 04, 2020 at 12:48 PM

RM

“ *Rosemary Maytson lit a candle in memory of MaryBelle Crosby*



Rosemary Maytson - November 12, 2020 at 01:50 PM

RM

*Mattson*

Rosemary Mattson - November 12, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



November 10, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



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November 09, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ *Todd and Mary McNeill purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



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**Todd and Mary McNeill** - November 09, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ *Tom and Sandy Petersen purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



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**Tom and Sandy Petersen** - November 09, 2020 at 10:32 AM

NB

“ To my cousins Boyd, Larry, Paul, and Susan --

*I loved your Mother, my Aunt Mary Belle. She was always sweet, kind, and funny. It was such a blast getting to spend time with all of you growing up and occasionally over the years as adults. Every single time I saw Aunt Mary Belle, she had Susan with her, from the time Susan was small to the very last time we were together at Angela's home in Oskaloosa. The loss of my Dad too young was very hard, but Aunt Mary Belle reminded me of him every time I saw her, and that always made me smile inside. She, Susan, and I would be laughing one minute and crying the next. We had a bond that never wavered. Aunt Mary Belle will remain in my heart and memory always. She lived a wonderful, long, and healthy life and was a woman to admire and look up to. Rest in peace, my Dear Aunt Mary Belle. I love you always.*

*Nancy*

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**Nancy Baker** - November 07, 2020 at 03:28 PM



*Thanks for those memories Nancy. Love the Coster family.*  
*Paul*

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November 09, 2020 at 05:38 PM

EC

“ *Ed, Nancy, Jacque, and Cathy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



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**Ed, Nancy, Jacque, and Cathy** - November 07, 2020 at 02:52 PM

DC

“ All of us Costers adored Aunt Mary Belle. She was without doubt the hardest working person I've ever known, and always lovely, full of advice, and inadvertently hilarious. I absolutely loved going to her house to see her and eat the chocolate chip cookies she always had in the cookie jar. She always had time for me, and always gave me a giant glass of cold water after working in the field on hot summer days. And the Crosby cousins, of course, with your dune buggies and choppers and three-wheelers and (seeming) wildness - how I have looked up to you all! I never knew what to expect when I came over, but I knew whatever it was, it was going to be exotic. I will never forget Susan singing with Abba on the radio in the pickup after walking beans, or finding little Jaws (the puppy) whom she adopted. And the time Paul fell out of the hay mow and almost was run over by Dad. And Mike with his long hair, bell-bottoms and motorcycles. And Larry renaming himself Super-Wrench, which I always thought was hilarious as well as true. And Boyd, always thoughtful and in control and planning for the future. And just the general rambunctiousness and humor of the whole clan - it was a zoo. So was the Coster household, but it was a different kind of a zoo in which I lived every day, so never as interesting! I don't know how Aunt Mary Belle managed all of the drama. Yet again, she could be a little dramatic herself from time to time, and how the tears could flow! (This is a Coster trait, I think.) She had a long and happy life. I am glad I got to be a part of it.

*With love to you all,*

*David Coster*

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**DAVID D COSTER** - November 06, 2020 at 11:59 AM



*Thanks for those memories David. Love you and all the Costers.  
Paul*

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November 09, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of MaryBelle Crosby.*



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November 06, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ *MaryBelle was kind, outspoken(!), a photographer and videographer, a fabulous seamstress, and the baker of the best homemade dinner rolls and pies. I so enjoyed having her as a part of my life, even tho I hadn't seen her for many years.*

*Sending hugs to all her family.*

*Donna Crosby*

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**Donna Crosby** - November 06, 2020 at 09:07 AM



*Thanks for the kind words Donna.  
Paul*

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November 09, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ *I'll always be forever grateful to have known her. I remember her taking me to my very first concert in Des Moines to see Wade Hayes. She was always so friendly.*

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**Josh Bethune** - November 05, 2020 at 03:40 PM



*Thanks for those kind words and memories Josh.  
Paul*

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November 09, 2020 at 05:40 PM

BT

“ *Brenda Todd lit a candle in memory of MaryBelle Crosby*



**Brenda Todd** - November 04, 2020 at 09:18 PM

SS

“ *Today my heart is filled with heavy sadness after hearing of Marybelle's passing, I am only sad for myself, but I am thrilled for Marybelle for I know she is now with her King. . I considered Marybelle a very dear friend, but she was more like family to me and my family. Over the years, Marybelle has been extremely kind to my family and myself. Marybelle's faith in God was very strong and she served as an inspiration to those who knew her. I know she has inspired me and reaffirmed my faith in God. I have always said that God has a special place in Heaven waiting for Marybelle when her time came to go home. I will deeply miss our long talks over the phone and seeing her smiling face at my shows and I know this 'ol world will never quite seem the same. So Marybelle, until we meet again, fly away on wings of angels. Rest in eternal peace...*

**Storm Seymour** - November 04, 2020 at 01:41 PM

KM

*I always remember the storm bumper sticker she had in the back window of her car! Thank you for sharing these kind words*

**Katie Maupin** - November 04, 2020 at 11:53 PM



*Thanks for those kinds words Storm. Mom loved you as a musician and also as a wonderful soul walking this earth.*  
*Paul*

November 09, 2020 at 05:44 PM



*Larry, Paul, Susan and families. So very sorry for your loss.  
Rod Lappin*

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**Rod** - November 09, 2020 at 06:40 PM



*Thank you Rod.*

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**Paul Crosby** - November 11, 2020 at 12:25 PM