Please note: you must send us a request to add your loved one’s name to each year’s program. Complete a form / remittance envelope.

We will recognize your loved one’s name at our butterfly release whether or not he or she was a hospice patient.

Thanks to MercyOne North Iowa Marketing for their assistance with the virtual livestream and to our MercyOne North Hospice board members and staff for all their assistance.

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice
232 2nd Street SE
Mason City, IA 50401
641-428-6208
MercyOne.org/northiowa/hospice

Wings of HOsPicE memorial and butterfly release
MercyOne North Iowa Hospice
Saturday, September 12
The Butterfly: A Symbol of Hope, A Symbol of New Life

by Eunice Brown

The butterfly lays a tiny dewdrop of an egg on a juicy milkweed leaf. Inside the egg is her baby. When the baby hatches, however, she is not a beautiful butterfly like her mother. She is a caterpillar who eats and chews on the milkweed leaf for two weeks. The caterpillar’s skin doesn’t grow with her, so she has to take it off. She spins a little thread, clings to it, puffs air under her old skin until it splits. She stretches and twists, until she emerges dressed in a new and larger skin. She eats, grows, and changes her skin three times.

Then she hides in a dark, cool place and spins a little button, hooking herself there. Once again she crawls from her old skin, but this time takes off her caterpillar feet, head and horns. Underneath is a cocoon, hanging by a black thread. She hangs for days in stillness; no longer a caterpillar, but a chrysalis, preparing her secret. Then one day a head can be seen — a foot comes out. She struggles and struggles. She must pump something from her body into her wings to strengthen them. After a long time she emerges, fanning her wings slowly to dry them. Then she rests for hours. This beautiful butterfly has never flown. She had done nothing but a “caterpillar crawl.” Finally she soars into the air as though she has been flying forever.

We might be tempted to help release the butterfly from her cocoon. It is human nature to want to assist; but if we do, she will fall to the ground and die. By the struggle to free herself, she strengthens her wings enough to survive and fly.

Grief is certainly like this process. We feel ugly, we change, we hide, we sometimes spin a cocoon around ourselves, and we struggle. Like the butterfly, we need to free ourselves. It takes a long time. There is a difference, however; others may help us as we struggle. We need not do it all alone as the butterfly does; but the ultimate responsibility is ours. We have to grieve, hurt, cry, be angry, and struggle to free ourselves from the cocoon of grief. And one day we do emerge — a beautiful butterfly — a stronger person, a more compassionate person, a more understanding person.

Welcome

Katie Schuessler
Hospice director

Reading

Kurtis Meyer
Hospice board chair

Reading of names

Doreen Hanson & Joyce Sherman, Hospice staff

Butterfly blessing

Art Zewert
Hospice chaplain

Butterfly Release

Katie Schuessler & Autumn Hawver, Hospice staff
In memory of:

Stephenie Abrahamson
Steve Adair
Herbert & Darlene Alexander
Basil & Marie Allen
Eugene and Mary L. Wallace
Calvin & Beverly Anderson
Phyllis Anderson
Ramona Anderson
Sandra L. (Noe) Arciniega
Judy Arrowood
Dorothy Bailey
Cheryl Barkema
Frank Batterson
Ronald Bauer
Stella Belding
Jenny Benning
Herman (Bud) Berding
Tara Beshey
Lloyd Bier, Sr.
Shirley Bilstad
Dean Blackmer
Wayland R. Blake
Shirley Bogess
Hilda Bohn
Duane Boies
Cecil Bottjen
Jolene Boyd
Linus Brincks
Trevor Brinson, Sr.
Gordon & Ardith Buchanan
Hilmar & Ruth Buerger

Sharon Buffington
Karen Butler
Elaine Campney
Bob Carmody
Shaun Cesar
Jimmy Christensen
Sharon Cimmiyotti
Dean Clark
Gene Clark
Darwin Cole
Glen Crabtree
Deloris M. Crawford
Garry Lee Cross
Marjorie Curtis
Grace Dahlby
Urban & Patricia DeWalle
Galen Docken
Byron Dodd
John G. Dorsey
John B. Dotson
Roger Dunahoo
Jerry Dunbar
Donna Durbin
Margaret Ebert
Debra S. Faught
Gary G. Faught
Frances Forbes
John T. Foster
James Frederick
Marlene A. Frein
Mary French
Valdene Frost
James Furleigh

Theresa Gabel
Barbara Gaiser
Barbara Gallogly
John Gallogly
David Gobeli
Merle L. Goddard-Hangartner
Darrell Goff
Helen Goranson
Mary L. Grace
Theresa Grein
Jerry Stephen Groesbeck
Carl Grupp, Jr.
Robert Haarup
Robert Hall
Wanda Hall
Dennis Hamilton
Norma Hamilton
John “Jack” “Pops” Hangartner
Mary L. Hansen
Fred Harder, Jr.
Lila Harrison
Shirley M. Hawver
Debra K. Heginger
Edward & Lois Hegtvedt
Arnold Hejlik
Dennis Henningsen
Bertha Hesley
Steve Hesley
Bill & Marj Heusinkveld
Mary Hewitt
Mary Hibner
Derald Hoel
(Ernest) Merlyn Hofer
Merle Hoffman
Robert N. Holman
Harold Hopp
Joyce Hopp
Becky Hughes
Rose Hughes
Tom Hughes
Phil Hulburt
Tom Humburg
Edwin & Joan Jacobson
Earl Jaspersen
Emil & Jean Jass
Bob Jensen, Sr.
Mike Johanns
Richard Johanns
Mildred Johansen
Karen Johns
Roland Jones
John Kautman
Blanche Kay
Dick Kay
Stella Kay
Eugene Kernan
Lois Kernan
Bill Kiewiet
Karen Kirschenman
Josh Knowles
Lloyd Knutson
Darlo Koster
Michelle Kruger
Clarence & Ione Kruse
Mary Ann Kurash
Joe R. Lambert
Jack Larson
Bob & Evelyn Latch
Robert Lee
Carl (Dick) Lundgren
Lyle R. Mackey
Ethem Magner
Hugh & Dorothy Magner
Hugh (Ron) & Maxine Magner
Duane Malek
Gordon Marsh
Carol J. Maschek
Richard Matson
Bob McCormick
Charles (Chuck) McGreevey
Tiffany Suzanne McGreevey
“Mac” & Fern McSweeney
Penny Lin Meyer
Kevin Milbrandt
Lucille Milhous
Dalen Miller
Jill Ann Miller
Norma Miller
Thelma Miller
Kathryn Mills
Betty Mitchell
Bonne Rae Moeller
Christine Muff
Clara Muff
Kathleen A. Murphy
My Loved Ones
Mark & Mary Napoletano
Donald L. Nichols
Dick Nickerson
Stephanie Jo Ohotto
Ron Ohotto, Sr.
Dick Olson
John & Virginia Overgaard
Sarah Jo Parcher
Connie Lou Paulson
Mary Paulus
Mark R. Peltan
Leonard Peterson
Trudy Peterson
Dennis E. Popowski
Marlene Pruin
Nathan Quail
Eldon E. Randall
Marvyl Ransom
Bob & Gerry Reed
Beryl Richard
Tom Richards
Gerald (Jerry) Rickard
Deloris Riherd
Thomas Riherd
Smitty & Hulda Ringis
Christopher Casey Risley
Jeff Robe
Avonell (Ann) Ross
Marjorie (Marge) Ryan
Rose M. Sallee
Verna Sanderson
Walter & June Scherb
Dr. Charles Schilling
Linda Hoel Schlader
Nadene Schlawin
Jeryl Schmitt
Smitty Forrest Schmitz
Susan Seidel
Frank Shafer
Lyle “Pete” Sharar
Dr. Shivaram T. Shetty
Ilene Shinn
William & Joyce Shober
Carolyn Simpson
Wayne Skyrme
Donnie Smith
Gerald R. Smith
Richard Snedden
Lew Snook
Shirley A. Snook
Paul Sorenson
Charlie “Pops” Spratt
Fred & Malinda Sprung
Hod & Avis Strike
Marie Strojek
Duane Sunde
Larry Suntken
Valerie Tedder
John Tegtmeyer
Deanna Thilges
Michael Tobin
Margaret Tue
Brett Turner
Lynn Twedt
Sandy E. Tyer
Jim Tyler
Kay Uetz
Richard & Pauline Ulrich
Claire Wallace
Max B. Wedeking
Carol Wosepka
Clive Wyke
Kenneth Dean Zuehl

In honor of:

Dean Hoffman
Connie Marsh Jennings
Terrie (Zuehl) Novack

We’re sorry if we missed or misspelled your loved one’s name.