



## Iris Lucille Howard

September 12, 1937 - July 22, 2023

Iris Lucille Howard, 85, formerly of Thayer passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Morningstar Care Home in Neodesha. Iris was born on September 12, 1937 in Burden, Kansas, the daughter of Rufus Samuel Sr. and Viola Delight (Chambers) Sumner.

Iris grew up in Burden and graduated from Burden High School in 1955. On October 24, 1956, Iris married John Clinton Howard in El Dorado, Kansas. Iris and John were married for 48 years until his passing on June 30, 2005.

Iris was a very active woman and incredibly hard working; she was a vet assistant at Animal Medical Center in Chanute for 30 years, she also was the head cook at Hidden Haven Christian Camp in Thayer for many years and she used that income to pay for her grandkids and great grandkids to attend the camps yearly, and was an Avon saleswoman. After retiring she also delivered meals for meals on wheels and until her health started to decline, she would walk three miles every day.

Iris was known for her cooking, especially her cinnamon rolls and she always made sure to open her home to everyone in Thayer that needed a meal or just a place to come and visit for a while. She was also a care taker to anyone in need, whether it was family member or a member of the community.

When John was alive, Iris was in a bowling league with him in Chanute. Iris also loved to dance and at any function where dancing was involved her card was always full with somebody wanting to dance with her.

Iris will also be remembered for being a very ornery woman and if you were to

look up the definition of mother in the dictionary it would describe Iris perfectly.

Iris was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Iris is survived by her four children: Dennis Howard and his wife Brenda of North Kansas City, MO, Tonya Greer of Chanute, KS, Annette Thomas and her husband Richard of Fredonia, KS, and Warren Howard (Anna Gindlesberger) of Thayer, KS; fifteen grandchildren, thirty-three great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

Iris was preceded in death by her parents, husband John, siblings Orin, Howard, Nita, Rufus Jr., Lois, Aletha, Gene, Faye, and Ray; daughter in law Susan Howard, an infant granddaughter and great grandson Anthony Howard.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 10:00 am at Thayer Christian Church with inurnment at Thayer Cemetery to follow the family dinner. Memorials have been suggested to Hidden Haven Christian Camp or the Alzheimer's Association and may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at: [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home 101 N. Highland, Chanute, Kansas 66720.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

Thayer Christian Church  
8495 Dorn Rd  
Thayer, KS 66776

## Inurnment

AUG 12 (CT)

Thayer Cemetery  
Thayer, KS 66776

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ Martha J. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Iris Lucille Howard.

Martha J. - August 05, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Iris Lucille Howard.



August 05, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Iris Lucille Howard.

August 05, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Iris Lucille Howard.



July 31, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Iris Lucille Howard.

July 31, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ I became acquainted with Iris when she worked at Animal Medical. She was always very helpful & such a nice lady. A life well lived.



Marilyn Mishler - July 26, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Aunt Iris



Nancy Sanchez - July 25, 2023 at 09:58 PM



*That was such a beautiful day of celebration.*

Tonya Greer - August 01, 2023 at 10:58 PM



*Thank you for sharing these precious photos with us and with sharing that day of celebration with us. It was so much fun. Love y'all*

Annette Thomas - August 08, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Aunt Iris



Nancy Sanchez - July 25, 2023 at 09:55 PM

RP

“ Iris was the head cook at Hidden Haven the first year Kim and I became camp managers. Iris did a wonderful job and made our 1st summer alot easier. She was so much fun and kept the kitchen fun. She had a rubber snake she would use to scare kitchen helpers. Iris also kept a water gun in the kitchen and was known to get in some water gun fights with ornery faculty. So many memories flooding our mind of a wonderful lady!

Rick Powers - July 25, 2023 at 09:53 PM

KP

“ Iris was so loved by our family. She was our neighbor when we lived in Thayer, our cook at camp (yes she scared me to death with the plastic snake hidden in the pot in the kitchen!) She also was an expert shot with her water gun she kept in the kitchen! She went to Mexico with our missions team to help cook for us, and I adored her. She was a great friend and a devoted lover of Jesus. I have missed her beautiful and ornery smile and hugs since we moved from Thayer. Her life was a testament to her first love of Jesus, a life well lived. Tonya and Annette and family sending hugs and prayers for comfort as you celebrate her life. Love you guys!

Kim Powers - July 25, 2023 at 09:32 PM

JR

“ *Jan Robinson lit a candle in memory of Iris Lucille Howard*



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**Jan Robinson** - July 25, 2023 at 04:24 PM

SW

“ *Iris was my boss and mentor for two summers in the kitchen at Hidden Haven Camp. Besides showing me how to manage cooking vast quantities of food for hungry campers, Iris kept the kitchen a place I wanted to work—with laughter and friendship mixed in with peeling potatoes, scrubbing pots, and mopping floors. I look back on those two summers with happiness. Thank you, Iris.*

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**Sandra Kimzey Wimbish** - July 25, 2023 at 08:39 AM