



## Iva Jane Lewis

September 17, 1948 - April 3, 2017

Iva J. Lewis, 68, of Grawn, passed away Monday, April 3, 2017 at Munson Medical Center surrounded by her family.

Iva was born on Friday, September 17, 1948 to the late John and Jessie (Duell) Hamstra in Bay City, MI. At an early age she developed a desire to learn and was a self-starter. These qualities were with her throughout her life. In her professional life she took upon responsibilities above and beyond her job title and taught herself skills necessary to excel.

Iva had an amazing work ethic. She worked at Chef Pierre, Asguard Goodwill, D & D Contracting, Menard's, the Blair Township Office as Deputy Clerk and an Election Official and at the New Approaches Center. She was also a certified EMT for Blair Township.

She volunteered countless hours to the Munson Auxiliary, Grawn Fire Department Woman's Auxiliary, Northwestern Michigan Fair as past Director, Treasurer and a lifetime member, the Northwest Michigan Recreational Snowmobile Council as Treasurer, Grand Traverse Snowmobile Club as Secretary, a certified Michigan Snowmobile Safety Instructor, the Michigan Snowmobile Association and a Camp Host at Interlochen State Campground. The Northwestern Michigan Fair was an important part of her life. She enjoyed helping the youth of 4-H and was proud to have purchased a pig for 12 years straight, often paying above market prices. She was instrumental in revamping the museum at the Fairgrounds and was the driving force behind the new Nursing/Baby Changing Building at the Fairgrounds.

Iva will be remembered for her infectious personality, warm smile and gentle laugh. She was quick to offer help to all those that were in need, whether it be a loved one, close friend or a stranger in front of the line. She had a quick wit and never let the opportunity for a joke or prank to go by. She enjoyed her grand and great grandchildren, watching Nascar, racing stock cars at a young age, any outdoor activity including hunting, 41 years at deer camp was very special to her, fishing, snowmobiling, camping and riding her Polaris side-by-side. She loved animals, with her favorite being the Clydesdales. She

enjoyed gatherings of friends and loved ones and was known as the Queen of the Potluck, with her taco salad and pistachio pudding the star of the show.

Iva is survived by the love of her life Milton Lewis of Grawn; daughters Michelle Jokinen of Traverse City and Kimberley (Doug) Nash of Traverse City; sons Robert (Maquel) Lewis of Traverse City and Aaron (Allison O'Grady) Lewis of Traverse City; brother John (Pam) Hamstra of Traverse City; 14 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren, with one on the way. She will be missed by her dear friend, and partner in crime, Bobe McPherson.

She was preceded in death by her dad John Hamstra, who passed when Iva was just 14 months old; mother Jessie (Duell) Hilts; step-father Lee Hilts and son-in-law Charlie Jokinen.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Iva's life will be held on Saturday, April, 29, 2017 at 4 p.m. at the Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds, with visitation beginning at 3 p.m.

It was Iva's dream that a pavilion be built at the Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds food court. Those wishing an expression of sympathy in Iva's name will help her dream come true and are encouraged to give to the Northwestern Michigan Fair, P.O. Box 83, Grawn, MI 49637.

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation for friends and family** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

**29**

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Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds

3606 Blair Town Hall Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49685

**APR** **Memorial Service** 04:00PM

**29**

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Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds

3606 Blair Town Hall Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49685

# Comments

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“ The first time I met Iva, I kind of crawled into my shell... The next time she made me laugh... all of the rest of our meetings, she entered my heart, which now has a hole in it... At the fair convention, even though she wasn't feeling good, Milt and I went up to their room to see her... I was so tickled to hug her and sit on the bed talking until she was coughing, so I left... was hoping to see her at the Zone meeting... Iva I will miss seeing you again... All my love, prayers and sympathy to you and your loving family!!! Love you loads and will miss you until we meet again!!! Love, Cyn



Cyn Prusakiewicz - April 07, 2017 at 07:40 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Michelle Jokinen - April 07, 2017 at 05:50 PM

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“ Oh Iva.  
I have SO many wonderful memories of you. You always put a smile on my face even when I was stressed enough to cry. You always walked into the office with sarcasm and sass and it made my day every time. I'll always remember the times when you told me to stand up for myself, even when no one else did. Heaven gained a very special angel.

Jessi Young - April 05, 2017 at 09:09 PM

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“ Iva could always make me smile even when I felt like crying. Her sense of humor was still with her when I stopped to see her Friday morning. Iva jess is not getting a big boat!!! lol I'm sure she is making people smile in heaven her and Wilhelmina. You will be missed!!!

**Tammara** - April 05, 2017 at 07:09 PM

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“ The first time I officially met Iva was at the camp gate at fair. I had my hands full carrying groceries to the camper. She nicely offered me a ride to my camper in her UTV. Little did I know when we got there she asked my wife if this drunk (I don't drink) belonged to her and I was causing trouble and just got back from the bar. Well that sparked a great friendship with her. I once told you Iva, I had great respect for you and Milt and I still do. I look forward to seeing you again someday and seeing what you have done to heaven! Thanks Iva for the memories, Cory Young.

**Cory Young** - April 05, 2017 at 06:43 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of your loss.  
Rev 21:3,4

**EC** - April 05, 2017 at 10:35 AM

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“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your wife. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Brian and Lennie Tregear

**Brian Tregear** - April 04, 2017 at 10:34 PM