

## Ruth Lorenson Gause



H-R 7-1-10

Ruth Joyce Lorenson Gause, 85, of Newton, formerly of Grinnell, died Monday, June 28, 2010, in the Monarch Wing of Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 31, at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Grinnell. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Research Association, Hospice of Jasper County or the charity of one's choice. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at the Smith Funeral Home website, [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

She was born on her family's farm near Herndon, Kan., on June 1, 1925, the daughter of Arthur and Ella Lovisa Lorenson with a triplet brother and sister, Ruben and Ruby. After graduating from Decatur County High School in Oberlin, she moved with her family to California where she found work in a Caterpillar factory. In 1945 she was united in marriage with Bruce Gause who was serving in the United States Coast Guard and they moved to Iowa near his family, raising their four children in Lynnville and Newton.

She worked for the Lynnville Telephone Company for several years and later for the Newton Telephone Company. She was a Girl Scout leader, worked for the the Selective Service and the Vernon Company, sold Electrolux Vacuum Cleaners, made wedding cakes and eventually started her own upholstery business. In 1997 she moved to Grinnell to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren.

She is survived by her son Phil; her daughters Bev, Conai and Nancy; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren, and her sisters Evelyn Olson, Ruby Williams, Rosella Kerr and Marilyn Shell. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her brothers, Clarence, Melvin, Louis and Ruben and one sister Inez Carlson.

Ruth Joyce Lorenson Gause, age 85, passed peacefully on Monday, June 28, 2010, in the Monarch Wing of Skiff Medical Center in Newton, to join Bruce, beloved husband of 50 years.



**R. Gause**

A memorial service for family and friends was held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1025 Fifth Ave., Grinnell, Iowa, on Saturday, July 31 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Ruth to Alzheimer's disease Research Association, Hospice of Jasper County, or the charity of your choice will be appreciated. Special thanks to the caring staff of Garden View at Wesley Park Center and at Hospice of Jasper County. Memories and condolences may be shared with the Gause family on the Smith Funeral Home website at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Ruth was born on the family farm near Herndon, Kansas, on June 1, 1925, with triplet brother Ruben and sister Ruby. After graduation from Decatur County High School in Oberlin, she moved to California with family and found work in the Caterpillar factory. It was there she met Bruce who was serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. They married in 1945 and moved to Iowa near Bruce's family. They raised their four children in Lynnville and, later, in Newton, Iowa.

Besides gardening, canning, and cooking special birthday dinners, Ruth worked as secretary for the Lynnville Telephone Company for many years. Bruce's fellow workers at Maytag's Plant 2 looked forward to Christmas and Ruth's peanut brittle, fudge, divinity, and cookies. The coffee was always on in her kitchen and often served with apple dumplings, Swedish tea ring, cinnamon rolls, or peach cobbler. Ruth once baked 40 pies

for the Friends Church bake sale when RAGBRAI rolled through Lynnville in 1974. She had a genius for packing the car for summer vacations and was the master navigator as the family traveled from Minnesota to Texas and Virginia to California, enjoying the country and visiting with both Lorenson and Gause relatives.

A woman of quiet strength and kindness, Ruth helped friends, neighbors and family whenever needed. She volunteered as Girl Scout leader for years. Her creativity and energy supported countless family, school, church, and community activities. When the family moved to Newton in 1966, Ruth worked for the Newton Telephone Company, the Selective Service, and the Vernon Company. She sold Electrolux vacuum cleaners, made wedding cakes and mints, sewed curtains, and eventually started her own upholstery business.

After Ruth and Bruce retired, they continued their travels around the country to visit family and friends and spent two years living in Superior, Nebraska, caring for Ruth's aunt Anna. Ruth moved to Grinnell in 1997 to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren and continued her community service and church activities.

Ruth was preceded in death by Bruce, parents Arthur and Ella Lovisa (Cederberg) Lorenson and brothers Clarence, Melvin, Louis, and Ruben as well as one sister, Inez (Lorenson) Carlson.

She was loved by son Phil (Linda) and daughters Bev, Conni, and Nancy (Peg Craig). She proudly watched grandchildren Eric (Kari), Garth (Christy), Madison, Cale (Jamie), Lee (Kate), Lindsay (Cee J), and Jacob (Torri) grow into wonderful people. She delighted in great-grandchildren Justin, Kaitlyn, Kaci, Allison, and Zachary. She leaves much-loved sisters Evelyn Olson, Ruby Williams, Rosella Kerr, and Marilyn Shell, sister-in-laws Louise Crews and Virginia Gause, and many dear relatives and friends.