Melinda "Kay" Abernathey, 52, of Grinnell died March 18, 2011, at her home.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 23, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Rev. Susan Sanning, Grinnell Regional Hospice Chaplain, officiating. Honorary bearers were Bill Abernathey, Ted Abernathey, Dennis Battaglia, Robert Bullock, Bill Carlton, Bill Downs, Mike Groves, Brett Lakose, Craig Mott, Scott Sieck, and John Walker.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Melinda Kay Abernathey Memorial Fund.

Kay was born Jan. 31, 1959, in Grinnell, the daughter of Delores May Clubb. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 1977 graduate of Grinnell High School.

After her education, she began her career at Grinnell Mutual Re-Insurance Company, most recently as a business analyst. She was devoted to her work and also to her grandchildren. She enjoyed sewing, drawing, arts and crafts, shopping, travel, and camping. She also loved collecting horse figurines and pictures, and was active for several years playing volleyball and bowling.

Survivors include two daughters, Stacy Bullock of Hebron, Ill., and Ashley Lakose of Grinnell; her best friend, Bill Abernathey of Waterloo; four grandchildren; five sisters, Cindy Downs of Montour, Pam Mott of Iowa Falls, Jo Carlton of Alexander, Kim Johnson of Grinnell and Kris Sieck of Grinnell; one brother, Richard Clubb of Cedar Rapids; and her two dogs, Kasey and Maggie.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Delores Johnson; her step-father, Curtis Johnson; two infant sons, Robert J. and Jaime L. Bullock; and her grandparents, Silias and Irene Holland.
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After her education, she began her career at Grinnell Mutual Re-Insurance Company, most recently as a business analyst. Part of her identity was her devotion to her work, which she loved and she took great pride in being a valuable employee at her company.

Kay was a very caring person and enjoyed doing things for others. She loved her grandchildren and sharing her time with them. She enjoyed sewing, drawing, arts and crafts, shopping, and camping, particularly at Rock Creek Lake and Diamond Lake. She loved traveling and put in a lot of miles traveling throughout the southeast and southwest part of the country. She also loved collecting horse figurines and pictures. She was active for several years playing volleyball and bowling.

Survivors include two daughters, Stacy Bullock of Hebron, Ill., and Ashley Lakose of Grinnell; her best friend, Bill Abernathey of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Micaela, Destany, Madyson, and Faith; five sisters, Cindy Downs of Montour, Pam Mott of Iowa Falls, Jo Carlton of Alexander, Kim Johnson of Grinnell, and Kris Sieck of Grinnell; one brother, Richard Clubb of Cedar Rapids; and her two dogs, Kasey and Maggie.

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