

GHR 2-10-11

Janet Louise German



Janet Louise (Jan) German, 73, of Grinnell died Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, at her home.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Feb. 11, at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Nancy Anderson, pastor of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, officiating. Pallbearers will be Laura and David Ayers and Randy, Scott, David and Reid German. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the United Church of Christ-Congregational or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

She was born May 23, 1937, in Grinnell, the daughter of Clifford and Louise Larsen Wichman. She was a 1954 graduate of Grinnell High School. While in high school she was employed at Poweshiek County National Bank and later with the Farm Bureau in Des Moines.

She was united in marriage with Hugh German, her high school sweetheart, on Oct. 30, 1955, at Grinnell United Methodist Church. They resided in Grinnell where they raised their family.

She was a secretary in the state office of United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell for several years, then as Director of Alumni Programs at Grinnell College. She later managed the Grinnell Travel Center until her retirement.

She was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational; Chapter NF, P.E.O.; Priscilla Club; and Grinnell Golf and Country Club.

She is survived by her husband, Hugh; her daughter and son, Ellen Ayers of Cottage Grove, Minn., and John German of Grinnell; her brother Ken Wichman of Fishers, Ind.; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

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Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell U.C.C. - Congregational or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Jan was born May 23, 1937, in Grinnell, the daughter of Clifford and Louise Larsen Wichman. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 1954 graduate of Grinnell High School. While in high school, she was employed at the Poweshiek County National Bank and later with the Farm Bureau in Des Moines.

On Oct. 30, 1955, she was united in marriage to Hugh German, her high school sweetheart, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church. The couple made their home in Grinnell where they raised their family.

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She was a member of the U.C.C. - Congregational, PEO Chapter NF, Priscilla Club and Grinnell Golf and Country Club.

As a former farm girl, she enjoyed barn collectibles, she also enjoyed cross-word puzzles and needlepoint. She loved the game of golf and playing in golf outings with her family. She gave back to the game by serving on the Grinnell Golf and Country Club Board. She was a proud grandma and always enjoyed hearing about her grandchildren's school activities.

In 1981, while working in the Alumni Office, Jan and Hugh spent a week in Hawaii with the Gorge Drake family during an official visit by the Grinnell College President. Some of the fond memories of Jan working in the travel business was the three cruises her family took to the Caribbean and Mexican Rivera, and visiting several countries in Europe.

Survivors include her husband, Hugh, of Grinnell; two children, Ellen (Rick) Ayers of Cottage Grove, Minn., and John (Stephanie) German of Grinnell; one brother, Ken (Karen) Wichman of Fishers, Ind.; and four grandchildren, Laura and David Ayers of Cottage Grove and Ty and Cade German of Grinnell. She was preceded in death by her parents.

PCCR 2-16-11