

Katherine Sturtz



Katherine Sturtz, 76, of San Angelo, Texas, and formerly of Gilman, died April 29, 2012, at Sagecrest in San Angelo.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 2, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with Craig Stadtmueller officiating. Pallbearers were Cade and Cole Doss, Jordan Jost, Matt Knoll, and Brian and Bruce Togle. Honorary bearers were Frank Convery, Brandon Hyatt, Eric Ingvall, Chad Lenoach and Bill Sepic. Burial was in the Prairie View Cemetery in Gilman.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Gilman Community Church, Grinnell Dollars for Scholars,

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Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Heifer Project International, or medical research for Lupus.

Katherine was born Nov. 5, 1935, in Grinnell, the daughter of Edward B. and Sarah Evelyn Miller Peak. She was raised in Gilman and graduated from Gilman High School in 1954. She received her BS degree from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in 1958 and did extensive graduate work.

On June 29, 1958, she was united in marriage with Vernon Sturtz in Grinnell. She lived in several communities in Iowa prior to moving to Sun Prairie, Wisc., in 1968 and later returned to Gilman in 1977. She taught school for 26 years in Iowa and was also for seven years director of the Colonial Club, a multi-purpose senior center in Sun Prairie.

Whether in Iowa or Wisconsin, she was always very active in her community. She was honored as the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce's 1989 outstanding educator for her community service work, was an active member of the Grinnell-Newburg Education Association and served on several school committees, and worked with volunteers in the schools and community partnerships, as well in leadership development roles for Grinnell 2000 and the Poweshiek Leadership Program. She was very active with Grinnell Regional Medical Center, serving nine years on GRMC's board of directors, as well as serving on the medical center's foundation board and its auxiliary.

Among her many interests, she was active in her church, and as a member of the Jaycettes, League of Women Voters, Rotary, PEO Chapter JB, Friends of Stewart Library, and RSVP as well as giving many hours of service to 4-H. She was co-founder/charter member of the Iowa and American Home Economics Association, co-founder/charter member of the "Alone Together" a support group for the middle aged widowed, and served on the St. Francis Advisory Committee for new retirement housing.

She moved to Garden City, Texas, after her retirement in 1998 and subbed in the Garden City schools for 10 years; she also spent one year working for Howard College in Big Spring, Texas, setting up a new program integrating Headstart and pre-school children.

Survivors include two sons, Steve Sturtz of San Angelo and Greg of Midland; one granddaughter; five step-grandchildren; three sisters, Sandy Togle of Grinnell, Carolyn Stadtmueller of Monticello, Iowa, and Polly Knoll of Waukee; and many other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and one brother, Ed Peak.