

Mary Kathleen Michalek, 86

Mary Kathleen McGivern Michalek, 86, of Victor, died Thursday, July 17, 2008, at the Belle Plaine Nursing & Rehab Center following a brief illness. Per her wishes, she has been cremated.

Survivors include her children, Maria (Joe) McNeil of Gun Barrel City, Texas, Sean Michalek of Victor, Angela (Tim) Butler of Kansas City, Mo., Rita Michalek of Belle Plaine, Karin (Jeff) Wheeler of Washington, Brien (Debra) Michalek of Victor, Jo (Jim) Moulton of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Brendan (Deborah) Michalek of Pella; sisters, Rita Maharry of Dana Pointe, Calif., and Connie Graham of Peachtree City, Ga.; and a brother, Kevin McGivern of Marengo. Also surviving are 24 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren who fondly remember her as 'Grandma the Great.'



Kathleen's faith and family were central in her life. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charlie; infant sons, James Charles and Francis; and sister, Rose Hogan.

Mary Kathleen McGivern was born Oct. 3, 1921, in Marengo, the daughter of Francis and Carolyn Kathryn (Kuebler) McGivern. She married Charles J. Michalek on Jan. 11, 1943, in Marengo.

She graduated from Marengo High School and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from U.N.I. She taught in a one-room school house south of Marengo. She also taught at St. John's Catholic School, B.G.M., H.L.V., Washington Elementary, and Prairie High School in Iowa, and Jefferson Parish, La.

Kathleen was a member of St. Bridget Church in Victor, and a choir director for many years. She was president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and active in Poweshiek-Iowa Right to Life. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the building of a chapel at the Iowa Woman's Prison.

Online condolences may be left by visiting www.iowacremation.com under "obituaries" or be mailed to: Brien Michalek, 1097 Hwy 6 Trail, Victor, IA 52347.

There will be a memorial service held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30, at St. Bridget Church in Victor. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to "Kathleen Michalek Memorial Fund."

BC 7/23/08