Mary Ellen Brock

Mary Ellen Brock, 80, of Omaha and formerly of Grinnell, died in Omaha on Sept. 15, 2012.

A memorial mass will be held Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 8 a.m. at St. Mary's Education Center chapel, with burial at Hazelwood Cemetery to follow. A memorial was held on Omaha on Sept. 25, 2012.

She was born in Grinnell on Feb. 5, 1931, the only child of L.W. 'Pat' Brock (1894-1972) and Mary Frey Brock (1898-1971) and lived with them until their deaths. She obtained a master's degree as a speech therapist, and worked in Grinnell area school testing children and assisting with hearing and speech challenges. She also assisted with preschool children.

She was very active in the Grinnell area, recognized by the whole town as she rode her bike and attended numerous social, political and church events.

After the death of her parents, she moved to Omaha and worked at Boys Town for a short time. She entered New Cassel Retirement Center in Omaha in January 1986 at the age of 54.

Over the 26 years of her residence there, she remained very active – participating in Chapel Choir and Kitchen Band, playing the piano, singing for events and for fun, and organizing croquet and horseshoe competitions. She had an oral reading group for the visually impaired, reading newspapers and "Chicken Soup for the Soul" as well as joke and story books. She went to elementary schools to share with the kids, and enjoyed doing crafts with the St. Stephen's preschool children. She was also a beloved participant in the Brunch for the Spirit group and always had something pithy to share – whether political or social satire or some wise statement. She became ill over the past three years, but worked hard to the end to maintain her social nature.

She will be fondly remembered in Omaha where she has lived for decades, but in death remains one of Grinnell's own – returning to the town which gave her life and zest. Her remains will be interred with those of her parents.

"Mary Ellen, we knew you, we enjoyed you, we loved you: now be at peace."