Virginia M. Ahrens, 87

Virginia M. Ahrens, age 87, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, with her family by her side at her lake home at Lake Ponderosa near Montezuma and was under the loving care of Grinnell Regional Hospice and Iowa Home Health.

A celebration of her life was held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Rose Blank, pastor of Grinnell United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment was at Pleasant Township Cemetery near Ewart.

Memorials may be designated in her name to Grinnell Regional Hospice and Iowa Health Home Care and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 388, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at www.smithfh.com.

Virginia was born the daughter of Thomas and Nellie (Farmer) Watson on Aug. 20, 1925, in Grinnell. She was raised near Barnes City, and she graduated from Barnes City High School with the class of 1943. She attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls.

She was united in marriage with Donald W. Ahrens on Feb. 6, 1946, in Grinnell. The couple was blessed with five children, Linda, Richard, Vicki, Deborah, and Michael. They raised their family in Grinnell and she was a homemaker. She later worked at the Laundromat and Miracle Recreation in Grinnell.

Virginia was a member of the United Methodist Church in Grinnell and the Iowa Democratic Committee. She was a devoted wife and a wonderful mother and grandmother. She enjoyed making the holidays very special and festive for her family, especially with the excellent meals she prepared. She spent countless hours teaching her children and grandchildren how to fish at Lake Ponderosa. Her other enjoyments were playing the slot machines at the casino, gardening, and tending to her flowers.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Noel) Mumm of Missouri Valley, Richard (Carolyn) Ahrens of Grinnell, Vicki (Larry) Allen of Towanda, Ill., and Deb (Rob) Walker of Montezuma; 14 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; her sister, Florabelle Smith of Bettendorf; sister-in-law, Lu Ahrens of Montezuma; and daughter-in-law, Teresa Ahrens of Grinnell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Donald W. Ahrens on Aug. 19, 2001; her son, Michael Ahrens on July 21, 2010; a grandson-in-law, Steven Glass; and daughter-in-law, Shirley Kriegel Ahrens.
Virginia M. Ahrens

Virginia M. Ahrens, 87, of Grinnell, died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, surrounded by family at her Lake Ponderosa home, under the care of Grinnell Regional Hospice and Iowa Home Health.

A celebration of her life will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Rose Blank, pastor of Grinnell United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will be at Pleasant Township Cemetery near Ewart.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday at Smith Funeral Home and the family will be present to greet friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday evening.

Memorials may be designated in her name to Grinnell Regional Hospice and Iowa Home Health, Care, and mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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She is survived by her children, Linda Munson of Missouri Valley, Iowa, Richard Ahrens of Grinnell, Vieta Allen of Toledo, Ill., and Deb Walker of Montezuma; 14 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; her sister, Florabelle Smith of Bettendorf, Iowa; and sister-in-law, Lou Ahrens of Montezuma. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Donald W. Ahrens, and her son, Michael Ahrens.

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