Elizabeth Virginia Baker Robinson

Elizabeth Virginia Baker Robinson, 95, of Grinnell, died on Friday, February 15, 2013, at Windsor Manor in Grinnell. A memorial gathering will take place in early spring. Memorials may be directed to the Grinnell Regional Medical Center. Memories and condolences may be shared with his family at www.smithfh.com.

Elizabeth was born to Randolph and Elizabeth Garrett Baker on April 25, 1917, the youngest and last survivor of six siblings. She was raised by her parents and extended family near Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

After graduating from Sallisaw High School, on her sixteenth birthday, she completed one year of college before working as a secretary in a fly-fishing lure factory, as a legal secretary, a court recorder and in Detroit, a timekeeper. In 1947, she married Albert Paul Robinson. He built a house in Garden City, Michigan, where they raised two children and lived for nearly fifty years. Many summer weeks were spent at their cabin on the shore of Neebish Island in the St. Mary River that connects Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

At the age of 40, Elizabeth began her second year of college culminating in a BA at Wayne State University and a MA at the University of Michigan. She worked as a speech therapist in the Garden City school system, until she retired at the age of 70. At 78, she and her husband moved to Grinnell to be close to family. She spent her last seven years at Windsor Manor, where she died peacefully.

Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, Linda Paulson; her son-in-law, James Paulson; and her grandsons, Sean and Mark Paulson. She was preceded in death by her husband and her son, Paul B. Robinson.

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