Mary Elaine Bailey

Mary Elaine Bailey, 75, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in Rye, Colo., where she had spent the last months.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, June 8, 2013, at 11 a.m. in the Carman Center at Mayflower Homes with a lunch/reception to follow in the Mayflower Bistro.

MARY ELAINE BAILEY, 75, of Grinnell, Iowa, passed away on May 14, 2013, in Rye, Colorado, with her loving husband and daughter by her side.

A memorial service with lunch following will be held at 11 a.m. on June 8 at the Carman Center, Mayflower Community, in Grinnell, Iowa.

Mary, the daughter of Wendell and Clara Walker, was born December 6, 1937, in Waterloo, Iowa, and graduated in 1956 from Gilman High School. Shortly after graduating Mary was joined in marriage with Richard “Dick” Bailey, a union which lasted for 56 wonderful years. Mary and Dick worked endless hours on their farm. She could and did drive a tractor, feed hogs, and kept a spotless house while raising five children and caring for her husband.

Mary was widely known for her love of baskets and had a long successful career selling Longaberger in which she won many awards and was widely recognized. But her first love was family and she hosted many holiday gatherings, family reunions, and get-togethers for coffee. The door was always open at the Bailey farm for family and friends.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents Clara Pettie Walker and Wendell Walker and a sister Dixie Allgood and granddaughter Kasey Hansen. She is survived her husband Richard Bailey; by sisters Peggy Ronk and Deanna Kacer; brothers Ted and Craig Walker; and her children Terry (Lynn) Bailey of Mt. Vernon, Missouri, Marty (Vonna) Bailey of Grinnell, Brent (Terri) Bailey of Spring, Texas, Lisa (Jim) Klipfel of Colorado City, Colorado, and Scott (Leslie) Bailey of Iowa City; and 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Mayflower of Grinnell, Iowa, and the Angel House of Rye, Colorado: both facilities provided excellent care to our mother at the end of her life. A particular thanks is extended to Marty and Vonna Bailey for providing care to Mary and Dick in their home allowing them to stay together as long as possible. We will be forever grateful for their love, care and friendship.

Memorial donations may be designated in her name to Rye Angel Cottage, 8053 East Birch Street, Rye, Colorado 81069.