Barbara Louise Gilbert



Barbara Louise Gilbert, 76, of Grinnell, died Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell. At her request, remains have been cremated and the family will conduct a private memorial. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell is handling arrangements.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or the American

Lung Association.

Barbara was born Jan. 25, 1937, in Elyria, Ohio, to William H. and Wilma M. Jenne. She was raised on the shores of Lake Erie and was the oldest of five children. Barbara graduated from Euclid High School and then attended the University of Miami in Florida. Afterward, she returned to Cleveland, Ohio, where she worked at Thompson Products and met her future husband.

Barbara was united in marriage with James J. Gilbert Jr. in 1958. Together they raised five children and Barbara alternated between work outside the home as tancoffice manager and asca full-time homemaker. They resided in the greater Cleveland area until 2012 when they moved to Seeland Park in Grinnell.

The adventures and activities of her family were of great interest to Barbara.

She enjoyed sewing, collecting tea cups, teapots, and refrigerator magnets, and was a highly skilled seamstress, sewing costumes for theater productions, tailoring wedding dresses, and making clothes for her own children. She was an avid fan of the Miami Hurricanes and the Cleveland Indians, and attended a 1997 World Series game with her husband at Jacob's Field in Cleveland.

Barbara is survived by her husband Jim of 55 years; her five children, Jim Gilbert of Grinnell, Judy Border of Crystal Lake, Ill., Laura Simpson of Atlanta, Ga., Cindy Gilbert of Seattle, Wash., and Scott Gilbert of New Haven, Conn.; her sister Sharon Hughson of Toms River, N.J.; her brothers Robert Jenne of Oklahoma and Rick Jenne of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and 12 grand-children.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Tom.

Barbara 'Bonnie' Gilbert

Barbara "Bonnie" Gilbert, 76, of Grinnell, died Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Services will be held at a later date.
Should friends desire, memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the American Lung Association and sent in care of Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

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