

Evelyn Garwood 614-R
12-18-2014



Evelyn Garwood, 96, of Des Moines and formerly of Grinnell, died on Friday, December 12, 2014, at the Taylor House Hospice in Des Moines.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 19, 2014, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Dr. Ronald Garwood officiating. Music will be provided by Betty Garwood, organist, and Corrine Kleppe, vocalist. Burial will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

The family will be present one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Grinnell United Methodist Church and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Evelyn was born on July 6, 1918, in Grinnell, Iowa, to Ross and Elsie Paul Esler. She attended rural school and later graduated from Grinnell High School.

On August 20, 1940, she was married to Verl J. "Barny" Garwood at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa, and to this union was born two children, Ronald and Sandra. She lived in Denver, Colorado, and Cheyenne, Wyoming, while her husband served with the United States Army during World War II. Following the war the couple made their home in Grinnell. She worked in the dental office of Dr. Kinzer and the Grinnell Herald-Register before working as a lab technician secretary in the Research Department of Cargill Hybrid Seed Corn Company. She retired in 1983.

Evelyn was a member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women, the American Legion Auxiliary #53, the VFW Auxiliary #3932, Holly Chapter # 477 of the Order of Eastern Star in Malcom and Past Matrons Club of Beulah, Chapter #47. She was past president of the American Legion #53, past president of the Poweshiek County American Legion Auxiliary and held several offices of the local and State of Iowa VFW. Evelyn was a charter member and was the first state president of the Iowa Water Pollution Control Association. She spent many hours volunteering for Grinnell Regional Medical Center, the Veterans Hospitals, local nursing homes, the Election Board and the Second Mile.

Survivors include her son, Dr. Ronald (Betty) Garwood of Cody, Wyoming; her daughter, Sandra (Jerry) Nearmyer of Des Moines; seven grandchildren, Christie Carroll, Doug Garwood, Eric Garwood, David Garwood, Kim Foster, Chantelle Kerr and Kathryn Dudley; fourteen great grandchildren, Josh, Isabella, Declund, Cillian, Kirk, Kasey, Alex, Miranda, Madie, Nellie, Ethan, Owen, Rose and Aaron; and one sister, Helen Boyer of New Boston, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one sister, Arlene McCulloch; and one brother, Myron Esler.

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614-R 12-15-2014