Norma Jean Farrington
(Nov. 12, 1931 · Feb. 1, 2016)

Norma Jean Farrington, 84 of Montezuma passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at the Grinnell Regional Medical Center on Monday, Feb. 1. Funeral services were Monday, Feb. 8 at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma. Visitation was on Sunday, Feb. 7. As was her wish, her body was cremated following the service and a private family burial was held in the West Liberty Cemetery west of Montezuma. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in the family’s name to be determined later.

Norma Jean Farrington, the daughter of Alfred and Dena (Van Hoover) Tish, was born on Nov. 12, 1931 near Montezuma. She attended country school near Montezuma and Montezuma High School. Norma Jean left school after the 9th grade to be a nanny to help her sister. Norma Jean married Jim Farrington and to this union six children were born: Nancy, Alan, Rebecca, Pamela, Scott and David. Norma Jean worked at the Overall Factory and Sig Manufacturing for a short while. A woman of faith and a big heart, Norma Jean fostered over 200 foster children, receiving Foster Parent of the Year Award. She enjoyed gardening, singing, dancing and above all spending time with her family and raising her foster children. Norma Jean was a faithful member of the West Liberty Church and also helped with their Vacation Bible School.

Norma Jean’s memory will be honored by her children, Nancy (Walter) Hagist of Searboro, Alan Farrington of Searboro, Rebecca (Skip) Fatzinger of Montezuma, Pamela (Michael) Benelli of Phoenix, Ariz., Scott Farrington of Montezuma and David Farrington of Montezuma; 11 grandchildren, Dawn, Jesse, Jayson, Brittany, Christopher, Joshua, Krista, Michael, Daniel, Erienne and Cassandra; 8 great grandchildren, Savanna, Gavin, Kayla, Mason, Chase, Nakhia, Jayden and Kennedy; three step children, Jim, Bonnie and Joyce; a brother, Earl (Marilyn) Tish of Newton; over 200 Foster children, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Dena Tish; her husband, Jim Farrington; three grandchildren, Tony Farrington, Shawna Hicks and Andrea Farrington and a sister, Coleen Johnson.

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