GRINNELL RESIDENT

Lora Graham, 57

Lora Marie
(Johnson) Graham, 57, of Grinnell, Iowa, died on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, as a result of a stroke suffered on Saturday, March 12th. She passed away at the University of Iowa Hospitals, where family surrounded her.

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 19, 2016, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastor Brian Chatwood (Madison Church of Christ) officiating. Interment will be in Haven Cemetery near Chelsea, Iowa. Visitation was held prior to her service at the Smith Funeral Home.

Memorial may be designated to the Lora M. Graham Memorial Fund, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Lora was born at St. Francis Hospital in Grinnell, Iowa on February 10, 1959, to Gale and Alice (Everdick) Johnson. She graduated from Grinnell High School in 1977.

Her life changed one day when she was hitch-hiking and got a lift from a man who would eventually be the love of her life, Kevin Graham. They were married on May 19, 1979. She took quickly to the life of a farmer's wife. Their two sons, Tyson and Troy, whom Lora loved to mother and took great pleasure in, increased their life and joy. After Kevin's untimely and unexpected death, she went to work at the Vanity Fair in Williamsburg, until she became ill in January.

Lora spent her free time cross-stitching, adult coloring books that she found therapeutic, challenging crossword puzzles, word finds, watching movies, playing board games, and more recently the game STOP with her dear sister and best friend, Vickie. She had an insatiable appetite for all things chocolate and especially peanut M&Ms.

She is survived by her two sons, Tyson (Carolyn) Graham of Wesley Chapel, Fla.; and Troy Graham of Omaha, Neb.; three grandchildren; Noah, Emerson and Miles; siblings, Vickie (Mark) Benshoof of Mohave Valley, Ariz.; and Marty (Diane) Johnson of Grinnell; sister-in-law, Sherry Korns Johnson; brother-in-law, Dan McDowell of Grinnell; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her special companion, Brian Kelm and his son, Andrew, who she adored. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kevin; and brother, Steve. All loved her and her family and friends were her absolute world.

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She is survived by her two sons, Tyson Graham of Wesley Chapel, Fla.; and Troy Graham of Omaha, Neb.; three grandchildren; siblings, Vickie Benshoof of Mohave Valley, Ariz.; and Marty Johnson of Grinnell; and many other relations, as well as her special companion, Brian Kelm, and his son, Andrew.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kevin; and brother, Steve.