

## OBITUARIES

GRINNELL RESIDENT

# Gwen Churchill, 86



Gwen Churchill, age 86, of rural Grinnell, died on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at

her home.

A funeral service was held Monday, June 13, 2016, at the Grinnell Friends Church with Pastor Todd Follette officiating. Pallbearers were Daniel and Dennis Churchill, Chad and Matt Birkenholtz, Frank Hawk and Anthony Nieuwsma. Honorary bearers are Keith & Barb Briggs, Richard & Carol Ebert, Bob & Velma Burnham, Beverly Van Maanen, Leanne Jansen and Brockie Follette. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present to greet friends in the afternoon.

Memorials may be designated to the Gwen Churchill Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared

with the family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Gwendolyn Blanche (Hawkins) Churchill was born January 26, 1930, to Earl and Icle (Miller) Hawkins in Prairie City, Iowa. She grew up in Monroe, Iowa and graduated from Monroe High School with the class of 1948.

Gwen was united in marriage to Harold Joseph Churchill on June 29, 1950, and celebrated over 60 years of marriage with him until Harold's death in 2013. To this union was born a daughter, Linda, and twin sons, Dennis and Daniel. Gwen worked as a legal secretary for nearly 40 years in the Grinnell area; with the last 27 years serving in the corporate position as secretary to legal counsel at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

Gwen was a member of the Bethel United Methodist Church from 1959, until the time it closed. She then became a member of the First Friends Church in Grinnell for more than 35 years, where she served as an Elder. She enjoyed decorating the church through her artistic talents of making crafts and

updating flower planters in the front of sanctuary each season. She received an award for her dedication of 125 hours as a volunteer at Grinnell Regional Medical Center's gift shop. Gwen enjoyed sharing her baking talents, especially with her friends at church, and looked forward to weekly farmers markets, where she sold homemade baked goods with her daughter for over 20 years.

Gwen is survived by her daughter, Linda Birkenholtz of Monroe; twin sons, Dennis and Daniel of Grinnell; three grandchildren, Sara (Frank) Hawk of St. Charles, Iowa, Chad (Elisha) Birkenholtz and Matt (Jessica) Birkenholtz of Monroe; her greatest pride and joy, seven great-grandchildren, Ira, Lincoln and Presley Hawk of St. Charles, Iowa and Charlize, Olivia, Baili and Bentli Birkenholtz, all of Monroe; and her brother, Earl (Wilma) Hawkins of Newton. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold in 2013; brother and sister-in-law, David and Sara Hawkins; and son-in-law, Tom Birkenholtz in 2014.

**Gwen Churchill** *6H-R*  
*6-9-2016*

Gwen Churchill, 85, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at her home.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, June 13, at the Grinnell Friends Church. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 12 noon Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present to greet friends from 2 until 5 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Gwen Churchill Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

**Gwen Churchill** *6H-R*  
*6-15-2016*

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Visitation began at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present to greet friends from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Gwen Churchill Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

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