Mary B. McClelland

Mary B. McClelland, 96, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, in her apartment at the Mayflower Community in Grinnell.

She was buried on Jan. 24, next to her husband in the Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell, Fla. A graveside ceremony was conducted by Dr. Frank Allen, Jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Kissimmee, Fla.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community, 600 Park Street, in Grinnell with the Rev. Len Eberhart officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the Mayflower Community Foundation or to Samaritan’s Purse International Relief, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Mary Elizabeth ‘Mamie’ Brown was born on April 18, 1920, in Mill Creek, Penn., the daughter of Ray and Edna Brown and the second of five children. She grew up on the family farm, attended high school in Huntingdon, Penn., and graduated from Juniata College with a degree in home economics.

In 1945, she married James G. McClelland, a Presbyterian minister just returning from service as a Navy chaplain in the South Pacific. Over the next 56 years, Mamie and her husband lived in California, Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Florida. He served as pastor at a series of parishes and she worked alongside him in roles of minister’s wife. Mamie continued to live in Florida for several years after her husband died but moved to Grinnell in 2011 to live first at Windsor Manor and then at the Mayflower Community.

Mamie loved to travel, to spend time with friends, to treat her guests to home-cooked meals, knit, read, and play many different kinds of games. Her faith in God was central to her life, as was her dedication to her extended family.