Barbara Joan Fisher, a longtime resident of Grinnell, died Wednesday the 17th of May, 2017, in the comfort of her home in the Mayflower Community.

Born on August 11, 1927, in Paris, Illinois, to Harvey and Lynne Morris, Barbara is survived by her sister Marion Mucha (Dutch) of Terre Haute, Indiana, son Jim Fisher of San Francisco, California, daughter Jennifer Fisher Jones (Brian) of Decorah, Iowa, and her cherished grandchildren, Alisha, Michael, Morgan, and Katie of San Francisco. Barbara adored and Gemini, of Denver.

After graduation from Paris High School in Illinois, Barbara attended business school at Terre Haute Commercial College in Indiana where she obtained her secretarial accreditation, after which she relocated to Springfield, Illinois, where she worked for the State of Illinois Vocational Education Department. It wasn’t long before Barbara met her future husband Bill (2005) on a blind date. Their lifelong partnership experienced a turbulent beginning when, in June, Barbara sent Bill a valentine that read “Drop Dead!” When Bill interpreted this as a refusal and didn’t pursue her further, Barbara reluctantly reached out to him with an apology and they were married a few months later in December of 1951.

Barbara and Bill were happy together through a series of moves within Illinois where Barbara held various administrative positions in the educational field. In Monmouth (School Principal Secretary), Bloomington (Secretary of Agency Training), Streeter (Real Estate Sales), Keokuk - and the final move to Grinnell in 1976 where she and Bill started their family and she remained for the rest of her life. In addition to raising her two children, Barbara dedicated much of her time to serving the Grinnell community in various capacities. Some of the clubs and organizations with which she shared her enthusiastic spirit and talents included: P.E.O., LeVitt, Grinnell Art Council, Park and Recreation Board of Directors, PTA, Blue Star Home, Bears High School Swim Team Advisor, Cub Scouts of America Den Mother, St. Francis Foundation Board of Directors, numerous bridge clubs, Therapy Dog Handlers of America, Grinnell Homes Social Committee, and Grinnell Regional Medical Center Volunteers.

Once her children were solely on their own life paths, Barbara opened to reenter the work force and managed The Diet Center in Grinnell for four years and later served as Activity Director at Mayflower Homes Health Center in the Alzheimer’s Unit. Barbara often stated that later was her favorite job of all time and was pleased to become residential member of the Mayflower Community in her later years.

Barbara had a dynamic personality, impeccable style and was a��eld person who absolutely insisted upon enjoying life. Many will remember her unique collection of eyeglasses, controlling social skills and red VW bug convertible with plates reading HELLCUV.

Since neither an obituary nor funeral service can encapsulate everything Barbara Fisher was to so many, we will be holding a Grand Celebration of Life in her honor at the Grinnell College Country Club at a future date.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Mayflower Community, 676 Broad Street, Grinnell, IA 50112 or Grinnell Regional Hospice, 306 4th Avenue, Grinnell, IA, 50112.