Barbara A. Aszman

Barbara A. Aszman, 89, of Grinnell, died Saturday, June 10, 2017, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

She is survived by two daughters, Barbara Aszman Stone of Grinnell and Sue Aszman of Blue Lake, Calif.

A graveside service will be held at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Chester, Ill.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Grinnell. Memorials may be directed to PALS or to Grinnell Regional Hospice, sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112.

Barbara A. Aszman
Aug. 29, 1927 – June 10, 2017

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 26, 2017, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Kathryn Roys, pastor of the church, officiating. The Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell is handling arrangements. Memorials may be directed to PALS or to Grinnell Regional Hospice and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Barbara was born on Aug. 29, 1927, in Plainwell, Mich., to Isabel Rebecca (Fry) and David Conrad Ashley and grew up in Dixon, Ill., where an exceptionally progressive teacher taught her primary school pupils music appreciation. This, together with the voice, piano, and tap dancing lessons provided by her parents, awakened in her a life-long love of music. She participated in the high school musicals and sang solos in nearly every church in Dixon. She was also active in sports and bicycled miles with her friends to visit state parks in the area. Her love of books often tempted her to stay up past her bedtime, reading by the light of the streetlamp outside her window. On May 31, 1947, she married Anthony John (Jack) Aszman in Chicago.

Barbara's first priority was always spending time with her children: reading and singing, playing games, baking cookies, making valentines, encouraging participation in arts and crafts and rescuing stray, injured, and unwanted animals. She was a fountain of advice and instruction for all sorts of problems with schoolwork and would have been an excellent teacher. Eventually she went back to work to ensure that her children would go to college. She enjoyed canoeing and hiking with her family and singing in her church choir and in the Allstate Choir, which used to perform in nursing homes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, David, her husband, her daughter Lynne, and her faithful dog Scout. She is survived by her daughters, Sue Anne Aszman and Barbara Aszman Stone; her son-in-law, John David Stone; her grandson, Neil Emrys Stone and his wife, Ashley; her granddaughter, Sophia Nerissa Stone Holmbeck; and her husband, Andrew, and four great-granddaughters: Cora Demory and Isla Harper Stone and Amanda Lily and Ariadne Lyn Holmbeck.