Mary Lou Saunders

Mary Lou Saunders, 87, of Grinnell, died on April 11, 2018, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

A graveside service and burial has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Sheridan Cemetery in rural Poweshiek County.

There will be no visitation.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Mary Lou Saunders Memorial Fund to be designated by family for local causes.

Mary Lou Saunders, 87, of Grinnell, died on April 11, 2018, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

A graveside service and burial was held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Sheridan Cemetery, northeast of Grinnell, with the Rev. Melinda Cree-Anthony of Des Moines, officiating.

There was no visitation.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Mary Lou Saunders Memorial Fund to be designated by family for local causes.

Mary Lou was born on November 5, 1930, in Grinnell, the daughter of Robert William “Jack” and Elsie Matzen Norris. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 1949 graduate of Grinnell High School.

On January 16, 1949, she was united in marriage with Robert L. “Bob” Saunders in Grinnell. A union of 68 years! The couple made their home in Grinnell, where Bob operated a plumbing business and Mary Lou was employed for several businesses including the Grinnell Shoe Factory, Meeker’s Laundry, Strand’s and later Bryan’s Shoe Store, and then in the kitchen at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. She knew the value of hard work!

Mary Lou loved the outdoors, camping and being a hostess at Rock Creek Lake, fishing and wintertime activities that included snowmobiling. For 10 years, the couple enjoyed wintering in the Mission and McClendon, Texas, area. Mary Lou enjoyed knitting, reading, playing bingo and putting together puzzles.

Mary Lou is survived by her sister, Jacque McClenathan of Victor; many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bob on August 25, 2017; and one brother, Norris.
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