Madge M. Ruchotzke

Madge M. Ruchotzke, 80, passed away on October 5, 2018, at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 13th, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Kathryn Roys officiating. Honorary Bearers will be her grandchildren, Heather and Chuck Blair, Alexander, Jennifer and Laura Krause, and Jacob Crawford. A private family burial will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 12th, at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present from 4:00 to 7:00 Friday evening.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Madge Ruchotzke Memorial Fund.

Madge was born on June 30, 1938, to Harry and Leona (Davids) Wink of Miles, Iowa. She attended Miles High School for nine years and graduated from Preston High School in 1955. She began work at the Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. before she graduated from high school and worked there until her marriage to John A. Ruchotzke in 1958. After their marriage she worked in the political science department at the University of Iowa for 12 professors while John was in college. After John’s graduation she worked at the ASCS office in Monticello, Iowa, until John’s transfer to Gilbert, Arizona. In 1967, the family moved to Grinnell where she worked in the office of Ruchotzke & Ruchotzke accounting firm.

On August 17, 1958, she was united in marriage to John A. Ruchotzke, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Preston. She was a devoted mother to their three daughters, Brenda, Diane and Penny.

Madge was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Grinnell. In the past, she was active with various groups in the church and very active in their daughter’s school activities. She and her husband John helped organize the delivery of 100 plus Thanksgiving meals to shut-ins in Grinnell each year. She also was a member of PEO and The Drummond Club. She enjoyed playing golf, bridge, sewing, needlework and her flower gardens, especially the roses. She also enjoyed going to all the grandchildren’s activities and especially enjoyed their summer weekly visits.

Madge is survived by her husband, John; three daughters, Brenda (Russ) Crawford and Diane Ruchotzke of Grinnell, and Penny (Brad) Krause of Lake Lotawana, Missouri; four granddaughters, Heather (Chuck) Blair of Grimes, Alexandria, Jennifer, and Laura Krause of Lake Lotawana; one step-grandson Jacob Crawford of St. Paul, Minnesota; three great-grandchildren, Lucas and Benton Crawford of Grinnell and Ariana Blair of Grimes; a brother, Gary (Diana) Wink of Westminster, Colorado; and a nephew, Chris (Molly and daughters) Wink of Denver, Colorado. She was preceded in death by her parents; and one brother, Donald Wink.
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