Caitlin Cline, age 16, of Grinnell, died on Friday, March 8, 2019, in her sleep at her home after a courageous, lifelong battle with a rare and severe form of epilepsy that begins in early childhood, known as Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 16, 2019, at the Grinnell Friends Church with Pastor Stephen Savage and Pastor Anthony Nieuwsma officiating. Pallbearers are: Jacob, Ethan, Ryan and Corbin Cline, Jason Brau, James Haberling, Alex Smith, Kyle Sites, and Caitlyn Christle. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be designated to the Caitlin Cline Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Caitlin Elizabeth Cline was born on October 10, 2002, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, to Todd and Shelley (Campbell) Cline. She was raised in West Des Moines and Pleasantville, and later in Grinnell, where she was a freshman at Grinnell High School.

Caitlin faced many health challenges since the age of two, but her faith in God and strength allowed her to overcome the difficult moments and diagnoses. She held a strong love for her family, especially her four brothers, Jacob, Ethan, Ryan and Corbin. Her enjoyments were her American Girl dolls, reading, swimming, watching Big Bang Theory and Disney movies on TV, listening to country music, especially Toby Keith, the companionship of her cat, Spencer, taking walks around Arbor Lake and hanging out at Miller Park in Grinnell. Caitlin will be remembered for being strong-willed, having a good sense of humor, for having a strong faith and the dream of eternal life in Heaven, and for her love of Christmas and Santa Claus.

Caitlin is survived by her mother, Shelley (Jeff Burckett) Cline of Grinnell; father, Todd (Lisa) Cline of Altoona, Iowa; four brothers, Jacob, Ethan, Ryan and Corbin Cline, all of Grinnell; paternal grandparents, JR and Doris Cline of Pleasantville, Iowa; maternal grandparents, Gloria and Greg Lincoln of Grinnell; step-sister, Caitlyn Christle of Altoona; step-brother, Tyler (Ashley) Christle of Spencer, Iowa, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Caitlin was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, John Campbell, on January 10, 2013.
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