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Isabel George 2-21-2019



Isabel George, 96, of Grundy Center and formerly of Grinnell, died on February 17, 2019, at Creekside Western Home in Grundy Center.

A funeral mass has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 23rd, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Ross Epping officiating. Organist will be Al Ricks accompanied by the church choir. Vocalist will be Milton Severe. Pallbearers will be Michael and Janet Fitzgibbon, Anita George, Adam, Don and Geoff Osterhaus, and Nathan Schleuder. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation with the family present will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 22nd, at the Smith Funeral Home.

A Rosary will be said at 4:00 p.m. Friday and a Vigil service will be held at 6:30 Friday evening at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be designated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Iowa Public Television (IPTV), or Cedar Valley Hospice.

Isabel was born on March 30, 1922, in Eldora, Iowa, to Scottish immigrant parents William and Mary (Stewart) MacRae. She attended Eldora schools and graduated in the class of 1940.

She assisted in the chiropractic office of Dr. Lester Soli for nine years. On July 15, 1949, she was united in matrimony to James L. George at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Eldora, Iowa.

In 1951 they moved to Grinnell where she remained as a homemaker and mother of three daughters. Active in PTA and a Blue Bird and Campfire leader for several years, she was known by her friends for her beautiful cards and letters and delicious trays of decorated Christmas cookies.

She enjoyed working crossword puzzles, the daily Jumble and Jeopardy. She and Jim enjoyed playing cribbage and Cameroon. Perfume and flowers of all kinds brought her pleasure. She also enjoyed the quiet things in life - a sunset, the moon rising or a baby's smile. She wrote poetry for the amusement of family and friends and often recited classic poems while doing housework. A travel highlight was her 1973 trip to Scotland to meet relatives with whom she had long corresponded by mail.

She loved celebrating holidays, decorating the house and giving gifts. One of her gifts was her desire and ability to make others feel special. In later years, many told her they looked forward to the Christmas recollections she shared in her annual letter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and infant daughter, Carolyn. The middle child of seven siblings, Isabel survived brothers Donald, William, Angus and Douglas MacRae and sisters Eunice Card and Margaret O'Leary.

Survivors include her daughters, Cheryl (Donald) Osterhaus of Grundy Center, Anita George of Altadena, California, and Janet (Michael) Fitzgibbon of West Burlington; grandchildren Geoff (Heather Stecklein) Osterhaus, Adam Osterhaus and Ellen Osterhaus (Nathan Schleuder); and great-grandchildren Amelia Osterhaus and Ella Stecklein.

If you are wondering what you can do in memory of Isabel, do something nice for someone - that's what she would have done. She spent her whole life helping others.