

Joanne M. Bunge ^{CH-R} 3-24-2022



Joanne M. Bunge passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 5, 2020, in Costa Mesa, California.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm officiating. A reception will follow at the Mayflower Community in the Buckley Dining Room, located at 619 Park Street in Grinnell.

Memorials may be made to The Bucket Courses and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family online at www.smithfh.com.

Joanne was born and raised on the Bunge family farm in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. She graduated from Grinnell College in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts major in music and a minor in speech. Shortly after college, Joanne was married in 1957 and then dedicated herself to raising her two sons in Bloomington, Minnesota, and began volunteering in the community. She chaired the Family Education Center, was the project manager for the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce for the Mall of America and was on the board of directors for the Bloomington Fine Arts Development Council, just to name a few of her accomplishments. Once her sons went off to college, Joanne moved back to Grinnell, where she worked for Grinnell Regional Medical Center and Grinnell College as the Director of Planned Giving. She also served as the 1956 Grinnell College Alumni Class President for 17 years.

When Joanne retired, she took her passion for learning and established the Seniors Education Program, chaired the Community Education Council and founded the local "Bucket Courses" that invited local experts to lecture on various subjects for the continued education of seniors. Out of the many contributions to her communities throughout her life, the "Bucket Courses" was one that brought her a great deal of joy.

In her spare time, Joanne was avid Vikings football fan, played the organ and enjoyed spending time in her craft room. She liked making candles, hand-made greeting cards, and knitting slippers for her friends and family.

She is survived by her two sons, Brad Fisher and Steven Fisher, their wives and four grandchildren.

#29358

6H-R

4-13-2020

Joanne M. Bunge

Joanne M. Bunge passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 5, 2020, in Costa Mesa, California.

Due to federal and state COVID-19 guidelines on limited gatherings, a memorial service will be held at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell at a later date.

Memories and condolences may be shared with her family online at www.smithfh.com.

Joanne was born and raised on the Bunge family farm in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. She graduated from Grinnell College in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts major in music and a minor in speech. Shortly after

college, Joanne was married in 1957 and then dedicated herself to raising her two sons in Bloomington, Minnesota, and began volunteering in the community. She chaired the Family Education Center, was the project manager for the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce for the Mall of America and was on the board of directors for the Bloomington Fine Arts Development Council, just to name a few of her accomplishments. Once her sons went off to college, Joanne moved back to Grinnell, where she worked for Grinnell Regional Medical Center and Grinnell College as the Director of Planned Giving. She also served as the 1956 Grinnell College Alumni Class President for 17 years.

When Joanne retired, she took her passion for learning and established the Seniors Education Program, chaired the Community Education Council and founded the local "Bucket Courses" that invited local experts to lecture on various subjects for the continued education of seniors. Out of the many contributions to her communities throughout her life, the "Bucket Courses" was one that brought her a great deal of joy.

In her spare time, Joanne was avid Vikings football fan, played the organ and enjoyed spending time in her craft room. She liked making candles, hand-made greeting cards, and knitting slippers for her friends and family.

She is survived by her two sons, Brad Fisher and Steven Fisher, their wives and four grandchildren.



Joanne Bunge Made a Difference in Grinnell

1934 - 2020

614-R 4-16-2020

Joanne Bunge passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 5th, in Costa Mesa, CA. She is survived by her two sons, Brad Fisher and Steven Fisher, their wives, and four grandchildren.

A native of Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Joanne graduated Grinnell College in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts major in music and a minor in speech. She was married in 1957, moved to Bloomington, MN, and raised two sons. While in Bloomington, Joanne was a tireless volunteer in the community and schools.

In addition, Joanne served as the 1956 Grinnell College Alumni Class President for 17 years.

Joanne moved back to Grinnell in 1990 to become the Director of Planned Giving for Grinnell College under the tutelage of Tom Marshall. In 1995, Joanne became the Development Director for the Grinnell Regional Medical Center, where among other accomplishments, she founded the Senior Education Program (SE*ED), a still popular weekly information offering for seniors.

After retirement from GRMC in 2001, Joanne followed her passion for learning, with the 2007 establishment of the Community Education Council (CEC) comprised of charter members Grinnell College, Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell Schools, and The Mayflower Community. She chaired the Council until 2016, when she passed the gavel for health reasons.

In its mission to collaboratively offer educational opportunities not currently available in the Grinnell community, the CEC undertook a number of initiatives to honor WWII veterans including the publishing of *Our War Stories* from Poweshiek County's Greatest Generation, a book of individual veterans' stories edited by George Drake.

Later on, Joanne led the Community Education Council to found the highly successful and still running "Bucket Courses" program, which offers unique, multi-session opportunities taught by local specialists to learn about various concepts before "you kick the bucket." Joanne chaired the Bucket Course Committee for its first eight years. In the midst of this CEC activity, Joanne assisted the College in revitalizing the ACES summer education program.

Joanne was elected to the Board of the Mayflower Homes Foundation in 2007. She served as a Director for six years until 2013, after which time she served on the Fundraising Committee for another five years. Joanne was the brainchild and the artisan for themes of the annual Mayflower Fellowship of Givers Dinners.

In 2009, Joanne began the process of building a Harwich Terrace patio home in The Mayflower Community where she lived from 2010 until she moved to California with her son and family in 2018. A highlight of the home, was the "candle factory" she designed in the lower level where she could craft beautiful wax candles.

To send a note to Joanne's sons:

Steven Fisher, 2064 Phalarope Court, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (Steven.G.Fisher@gmail.com)
Brad Fisher, 6624 Berretta Dr., Plano, TX 75023 (Brad@Cigarfish.com)

On behalf of the Grinnell community, The Mayflower Community would like to say, "Joanne, thank you for the many initiatives that you have established in the Grinnell community. You showed us what it means to volunteer with all your heart and soul."

The Mayflower Community
616 Broad Street • 641-236-6151

