Vernadine Kaisand

Vernadine Kaisand, 92, of Grinnell, died Sunday, May 3, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A private family graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 9, at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell with Pastor Matt Oleson officiating.

A public visitation will be held from 5 until 7 p.m. on Friday evening at the Smith Funeral Home. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the visitation will be limited to ten in occupancy at any given time. Smith’s staff will assist those in entering the funeral home upon arrival to the visitation.

A memorial fund will be established. Memories and condolences may be shared with Vernadine’s family online at www.smithfh.com.

Vernadine Marie Kaisand left her earthly body on Sunday, May 3rd, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell, Iowa at the age of 92.

Vernadine was born on May 8, 1927, to Ralph and Doris (Achtemier) Parker near Melbourne, Iowa. She is the youngest of four children. She graduated from Kellogg High School in 1944 and later worked at the Kellogg-Locker Plant. Vernadine was united in marriage to Emery Kaisand on January 26, 1947, at the Kellogg Methodist Church. Emery preceded her in death on June 30, 2011.

She has been a member of the Newburg-Chester Church for all of her married life and was part of their Women’s Fellowship group. Vernadine served as Historian for the Jasper County Women’s Committee and volunteered for the Grinnell Hospice Auxiliary for 25 years. She also was part of the “Ag in a Classroom” program, the Jasper County Porkettes, and the Greengrove Club. She served with the Newburg Progress Club and on the Second Mile Board in Grinnell. She belonged to the Kellogg Garden Club, Barrett Homemaker’s Club (Farm Bureau affiliated) and the Iowa Master Farm Homemaker’s Guild in which she was inducted in 1996.

She has enjoyed traveling with Grinnell State Bank’s Heritage Club and made a scrapbook for each of their trips. In 1994 Vernadine compiled a cookbook from favorite recipes of Kaisand and Parker families, her Newburg Church family, neighbors and friends. The many meals and treats she has made and shared over the years reflect her generosity as a wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Her memory is honored by children and spouses: Donald and Carol D. Kaisand of Kellogg, Iowa, Dennis and Carol L. Kaisand of Newton, Iowa, Dorothy and Roger Mertz of Goshen, Ind., and David and Denise Kaisand of Kellogg, Iowa. She was blessed with 14 grandchildren plus their spouses, 33 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

In addition to her beloved husband Emery, she was preceded in death of her parents and three siblings and their spouses: Raymond (Doris) Parker of Kellogg, Iowa, Ellen (Richard) Beukema of Mitchellville, Iowa, and Leota (Fred) Murphy of Mesa, Arizona. Emery’s family has always played a big role in the family also.

Friends and family may schedule an appointment for viewing (includes a video but without family present) on Friday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, Iowa. Social distancing will be observed. A family prayer time on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. will be held at Smith Funeral Home followed by a private family graveside service at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell, Iowa. Pastor Matt Olson from Newburg Church is officiating. Family may join digitally via zoom on Saturday morning starting at 10:15 by sending an email address to Smith Funeral Home at sjsg@grinnell.com.

Tributes, stories, memories, and pictures can be shared with family via Facebook or through the funeral home. A public celebration of Vernadine’s life will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the Newburg-Chester Church, the Newburg Scholarship Fund, the Kellogg Historical Museum or the Iowa Homemaker’s Guild, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, please feel free to give to someone in need in Vernadine’s memory.