

6HR 10-19-2020
Phyllis Ann Carpenter

Phyllis Ann Carpenter, 93, of Des Moines and formerly of Grinnell died on Oct. 17, 2020, at Manor Care in West Des Moines.

A private family funeral service has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Burial will be held in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

The service will be live streamed through the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page.

Visitation with the Carpenter family present will be held one hour prior to the funeral service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be designated to EveryStep Hospice, Kavanaugh House building project in Des Moines.

6HR 10-22-2020
Phyllis Ann Carpenter

Phyllis Ann Carpenter, 93, of Des Moines and formerly of Grinnell, died on October 17, 2020, at Manor Care in West Des Moines.

Due to the current pandemic, a private family funeral service was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson of Grinnell officiating. Pallbearers were Jacob, Michael, Seth, Jesse, and Ben Carpenter, Lindsay Wisniewski, and Brianne Swigart. Burial will be held in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

The service was live-streamed through the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page.

Visitation with the Carpenter family present was held one hour prior to the funeral service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be designated to EveryStep Hospice, in Des Moines.

Phyllis was born on March 29, 1927, in Des Moines, the daughter of George and Lola Harvey Oaks. She was raised in Des Moines and was a 1945 graduate of Des Moines East High School. After high school, she began working for the Veterans Administration in Des Moines and was soon transferred to Washington, DC.

On July 22, 1950, she was united in marriage to Gerald Dee Carpenter, in Des Moines. The couple made their home in Grinnell where they raised their four boys. Phyllis was employed with Grinnell Re-Insurance Company and later with Bierman Law Firm. In 1973, she and Gerald purchased a small communications company in Des Moines and they eventually moved there in 1976. She later was employed at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines and retired in 1989.

Phyllis was a member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, Grinnell Lady Elks, and P.E.O. She was an active Den Mother with the Boy Scouts Troop #347.

Phyllis and Gerald enjoyed attending most Iowa Hawkeye football home games, where they could usually be found at their favorite tailgating spot. They also enjoyed their travels to Hawaii and Europe. She liked watching old westerns and polka dancing with Molly B. She was a great historian on some of the Des Moines neighborhoods where she grew up and always looked forward to family gatherings.

Those left to mourn her loss are her three sons, Joel (Terri) Carpenter, Jeffrey (Peggy) Carpenter, and Jason (Kelli Joelson) Carpenter; a daughter-in-law, Ruth Carpenter; her sister, Barbara Summy; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Gerald Carpenter; a son, Jon Carpenter; a granddaughter, Cara Carpenter; and a sister Betty McDaniel.

