

6H-R
12-17-2020

Margaret L. Morrison



Margaret L. Morrison, 100, of Grinnell died on December 14, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A public visitation was held from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

A private immediate family graveside service and burial will be held at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be designated to Poweshiek Animal League (PALS) in Grinnell or Care Initiatives Hospice, 7055 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266.

Margaret was born on October 10, 1920, in Grinnell, the daughter of Rolla James Whitaker and Agnes Christina Esler Whitaker. She was raised in the Oak Grove area and was a 1938 graduate of Grinnell High School. She later furthered her education and received her teaching certificate at the Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls.

Margaret taught seven years at Grant School #7, a one-room schoolhouse, in the Grinnell area and later taught second grade in the Brooklyn School District.

She was married to Delmar James Brandt in June of 1943 in Waco, Texas. He was killed in action during World War II.

On December 24, 1946, she was united in marriage to Lavern Joseph Morrison, at her parent's home in Washington Township, near Grinnell. A union of 67 years! The couple farmed southeast of Grinnell for many years prior to moving to Grinnell in 1989 and later to Seeland Park. She had been a resident at St. Francis Manor since March of 2017.

Margaret loved her life on the farm where she helped in every aspect of running a successful farm operation; Margaret and Lavern were a good team and their love for each other was very evident. She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed serving dinner to the farmhands during spring planting and fall harvest. Hosting family and friends for dinner and fellowship was also a joy. She enjoyed gardening, canning her produce, and she held a passion for home interior; and playing the piano.

Margaret was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Grinnell and was a past President of American Baptist Women; she was a person of strong faith. She was member of Church United Women, a Sunday school teacher, a church Superintendent, a volunteer in the church kitchen helping with meals, and played with the English Handbell choir. She was active for many years with 4-H, as a member and a leader, and served as an officer with the Poweshiek County 4-H. She was also a member of the Harmony Ladies Aide.

Survivors include her two children, David (Becky) Morrison of Elizabeth, Colorado, and Marla (Jeff) Inks of Ankeny; a granddaughter-in-law, Jennifer Morrison Godshalk of Castle Rock, Colorado; and three great-grandchildren, Jenna, Jessica, and Jeremiah Morrison, all of Castle Rock. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lavern on May 8, 2013; her grandson, Jason; and two siblings, Harold Whitaker and Doris Lowry.