

Helen Rixen



Helen M. Rixen, 84, of Waukon, Iowa, died Saturday, Aug. 5, 2006, at Good Samaritan Center in Waukon.

Funeral Services for Helen Rixen will be held Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 11 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waukon, with the Rev. Lynn G. Groe officiating. Her grandchildren and their spouses will serve as casket bearers. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery in Waukon.

Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. today (Monday) at Martin Funeral Home, also in Waukon.

Helen Maxine Pagel Rixen was born March 5, 1922, in Sumner, Iowa, the daughter of William and Louise Harms Pagel. She graduated from Sumner High School in 1939 and attended business school in Milwaukee, where she lived with her sister, Lucille, and brother-in-law. She worked in Milwaukee as a secretary for Allis Chalmers for several years before moving back to Sumner, where she worked for a bank.

On June 26, 1948, she married Walter "Red" Rixen at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sumner. The couple moved to Waukon in the fall of 1949; she

worked as a legal secretary while her husband taught and coached. Their son, Jim, was born there, and she was an active member not only of the church, but also of VOV Study Club and a neighborhood club of close friends.

The couple moved to Cedar Falls in 1963, where she worked at Malcolm Price Laboratory School. From there, they moved to St. Ansgar, then settled in Grinnell in 1969. She worked for Poweshiek County National Bank and was very active in the local church and a post-retirement group called "Autumn Leaves." She also volunteered at Grinnell Regional Medical Center and was active in county Democratic Party politics.

After she suffered a stroke in 2002, she and her husband moved back to Waukon, where she resided at the Good Samaritan Center.

She was an avid bridge player and enjoyed working crossword puzzles, reading, music and dancing. She was a social person; her jobs put her in contact with many people, and she formed many long-lasting friendships. She was a loyal supporter of her husband's coaching career and of her son's activities. She loved her grandchildren and often traveled to be involved in special events in their lives.

She is survived by her husband and son, both of Waukon; and three grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents and her sister.

Online condolences may be left at www.martinfunerals.com.

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