

Lois Elaine Strickler ^{6H-R} 11-25-21-2021

Lois Elaine Strickler - daughter, wife, and mother - was born in 1944 at the hospital in Jefferson, Iowa. She grew up on a farm north-east of Panora, Iowa, with her parents, Clyde and Phyllis Wood. Lois grew up attending the Church of the Brethren (COB) north of Panora.

Initially Lois attended country school before going to town school in Panora. She graduated from Panora High School. After high school, she attended McPherson College, which is affiliated with the COB, in McPherson, Kansas. She earned a degree in Business Education.

Following her junior year at McPherson, Lois spent the summer working in Yellowstone National Park at Lake Hotel. She was an administrative assistant to management staff. It was here she met the person who would become her partner, Gayle Strickler, Jr.

Lois and Gayle were married the next summer at the Panora COB in June. They spent the summer working at a church camp near McCall, Idaho, before moving to New York City where Gayle attended seminary. There, Lois was secretary to a well-respected professor of Christian ethics. When Gayle took an intern year at a small church in southwestern Kansas, Lois taught school in a small district near Dodge City.

Over their 55-plus years of marriage, Lois and Gayle lived in: Britt, Iowa; New Braunfels, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Minot, North Dakota; Marshall, Minnesota; and, Marshalltown, Iowa, before moving to The Mayflower, a retirement community in Grinnell, Iowa.

Both of Lois and Gayle's children were born while the family lived in New Braunfels. During this time, Lois was the coordinator for Lamaze classes. She went on to work at the University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Business. Her last place of employment was the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Lois developed serious health problems beginning in 2013 with a diagnosis of lymphoma. These health issues became pronounced after moving to The Mayflower in 2017. Eventually, her body could no longer fight off the insults thrown at her. She died in late September at the Grinnell hospital when her organs failed trying to repel an infection.

She is survived by her partner Gayle, adult children Ray Strickler of Oakland, California, and Mara Strickler of Pella. She is also survived by many cousins and special friends she made at the different locations where she lived. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

A service of remembrance and celebration will be held on December 4 at the Grinnell United Church of Christ (UCC) at 10:30 a.m. A second service will be held in late Spring at Urbandale UCC in Urbandale. Details of that service will be announced at a later date.

Memorials may be sent directly to Heifer International, McPherson College (designated to the Lois Strickler Endowment), and Scattergood Friends School. Address and other donation information is on the website of each organization.