

Ellen J. Tope



Ellen J. Tope, 86, of Grinnell, died Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at UnityPoint Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines with her family by her side. A private family burial will be held at a later date. Memorials for Ellen can be made out in her name and sent in care of Cox-Smith Funeral and Cremation Service, PO Box 163, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Ellen was born on May 6, 1937, to

Eugene and Josephine Kliegel Fitzgerald in Emmetsburg, Iowa. She graduated from Emmetsburg High School. On May 17, 1958, she was united in marriage to Allen "Kenny" Tope in Emmetsburg. The couple lived there for several years. In 1986, the couple made Grinnell their home. Ellen was a cook for the Grinnell school district. She loved seeing the students and it showed. After retiring from the school district, she became the hostess at the Grinnell Steakhouse.

She always looked forward to having friends over and playing cards. The dinners she would make for her family and friends were the best. She truly loved cooking and was very family oriented.

Ellen is survived by her children, Julie Brooks of Nevada, Kathy Tope of Nevada, Tim Tope of Des Moines and Janet Tope of San Diego, Calif.; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; her siblings, Ann Godard, John Fitzgerald, Joe Fitzgerald and Gene Fitzgerald; and several dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Allen "Kenny" Tope; two sisters, Mary and Margaret; and one brother, David.

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