

GH-R
10-9-2023

Dorothy Blazek



Dorothy Blazek, 81, of Grinnell, joined the Heavenly Choir of Angels with Danni, Felisa, and Sylvia by her side on Friday, October 6, 2023, at the Iowa River Hospice House in Marshalltown, Iowa.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church. A luncheon will follow the service. Interment will be in Prairie Rose Cemetery in Corning.

Visitation will be held prior to the service at the church beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Memorials may be designated to the Drake Community Library or to the Iowa River Hospice House and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home and Crematory, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Dottie's family online at www.smithfh.com.

Dorothy Grace Perry was born on Good Friday, April 3, 1942, to the Rev. Homer F. and Bonnie (Bailey) Perry in Sioux City, Iowa. Dottie was raised in Sloan, Van Meter, and Madrid, Iowa. She graduated Valedictorian of the Madrid High Class of 1960, where she played basketball, but was most active in H.S. Drama Club and plays, many times being the "lead" of productions.

Dottie entered a five-year course program at Coe College and St. Luke's Nursing School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the fall of 1960. While a student, Dottie would meet her future husband, Franklin D. Blazek, also a student at Coe. Soon after graduating, she would accept a teaching position at Freeport Nursing School, Freeport, Illinois. Frank and Dottie were united in marriage while living there on June 4, 1966, when she also became a certified registered nurse.

The couple lived in many locations in Illinois, Arkansas, Texas, and Colorado. While in Illinois, children started joining the couple: Danni Sue, Felisa Louise, and Jonathan Kyle Blazek, all raised in Illinois. Dottie received her Masters in Science at Rush University in Chicago, June 1966, and later her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Degree while living in various Chicago suburbs. When the couple moved to Colorado, they started raising their youngest granddaughter, Hevyn Michele Blazek. In Colorado, Frank and Dottie also raised llamas and some ponies for Hevyn to ride.

Retirement led them back to Iowa, where they joined the Mayflower Community in Grinnell in 2016. The many people there will miss her countless hours of service and many activities in which she participated. Dottie's interaction with Mayflower residents, special friends throughout the Grinnell community, and fellow members of her church, United Methodist in Grinnell, will miss her terribly.

Nursing and caring for people were her lifetime career and passion, where she served always with love. Dottie retired as a hospice nurse in both Colorado and Iowa. She was an avid reader, many times finishing three to four books weekly. Dottie read the Bible and daily devotional guide every morning and participated in many Bible study groups both at her church and at the Mayflower. Sharing her beautiful soprano voice was also an important part of her life. She joined the Grinnell Oratorio Society and other choral groups so she could sing the Messiah every holiday season.

Following her father's death in March 2009 and especially her husband Frank's death in July 2017, Dottie grieved daily and was overwhelmed with emotion when sharing memories of both.

Survivors include their children, Danni Blazek (Victor Hodges) of Columbus, OH; Felisa Blazek of Windham, NH; and Jonathan Blazek of Chicago, IL. Also surviving her is her sister Sylvia (Paul) Hain of Lone Tree, IA; her step-daughter Vickie Blazek Hill of Highlandville, MO; and her daughter-in-law Geraldine "Red" Blazek of Cedar Rapids, IA. Dearly loved and ready to carry on family traditions are granddaughters Vivian and Veronica Hodges of Columbus, OH; Hevyn Blazek of Pueblo, CO; Karin Blazek of Romeoville, IL; and her grandsons Alec and Caden Blazek of Windham, NH; Bernie and Isaac Blazek of Cedar Rapids, IA; Misty & Meagan Carney of Cedar Rapids, IA; Ryan Klein of Cedar Rapids, IA; Brett Blazek of Highlandville, MO; Breanne Hill of Kansas City, KS; and Bryar Hill of Springfield, MO. She was loved by many nieces, nephews, step-grandchildren and great grandchildren; cousins, and very dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and three step-children, Deborah Blazek Carney and Rick and Michael Blazek.