
PCCR May 20, 2009

Lucille M. Benda, 90

Lucille M. Benda, 90, of Grinnell, died Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell, with the Rev. Dr. Susan K. Weier, pastor of the church, and the Rev. Lyle Kuehl officiating. Music was provided by Phil King. Casket Bearers were Alan Knaack, Bryan Haskell, Don Henning, Jerry Henning, Charles Van Thournout, and Brian Veach. Interment was at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.



Lucille Marie Roudabush was born Nov. 24, 1918, in rural Hartwick, to Ben and Carrie Leimberer Roudabush. When she was two years old, the family moved into town, where she later attended school, graduating from Hartwick High School in 1936. In 1938, she graduated from Iowa State Teachers' College (now University of Northern Iowa), and subsequently taught in the Blairstown school system from 1938 until 1941.

Lucille was united in marriage to Kenneth Benda, a former Hartwick High School classmate, on July 5, 1941. The couple made their homes in Chicago; then in Tennessee, where their daughter, Barbara Ann, was born in August 1942. After Kenneth joined the U.S. Navy in November, Lucille moved with their infant daughter back to Hartwick, then to Belle Plaine, where the two lived until they were reunited with Kenneth in 1946.

The family moved to Hartwick, where Kenneth took a position at Hartwick State Bank. Lucille taught school part-time, and later, joined Ken in the bank, where she held several positions before becoming vice president, and then director, holding the latter title until the time of her death.

A son, James Benjamin, was born to Lucille and Ken in Hartwick. Lucille's skill at combining motherhood, work, and community involvement, was honed as Ken became busy in public service, often away from home during his tenures as Iowa Department Commander of the American Legion, and Iowa State Senator. When he became president of the Independent Bankers Association of America in 1975, Lucille participated fully by planning and speaking at events for spouses, and enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout the country.

After making their home in Hartwick for 28 years, Ken and Lucille moved to Grinnell in 1974. In addition to her professional work, Lucille became active in Grinnell in the UCC Church, P.E.O. Chapter BM, Drummond Club, and served in several volunteer roles in the community.

Lucille was preceded in death by Kenneth, her husband of 66 years.

She is survived by daughter, Barbara Benda Jenkins, and her husband, Eli Kwartler of Pelham, Mass.; son, Jim Benda of Des Moines; granddaughter, Eve Benda Davey, and great-granddaughter, Althea Davey, both of Bozeman, Mont.; sister-in-law, Alberta Brosnahan of Brooklyn; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Kenneth J. and Lucille M. Benda Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to provide college scholarships. Memorial gifts may be directed to the fund, in care of Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112.

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They moved to Grinnell in 1974 where in addition to her professional responsibilities she became active in the United Church of Christ, Chapter BM, P. E. O., and Drummond Club, also serving in several volunteer roles in

the community.

She was preceded in death by Kenneth, her husband of 66 years, and is survived by daughter Barbara Benda Jenkins of Pelham, Mass.; her son Jim Benda of Des Moines; one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter.



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Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home on Friday beginning at 12 noon with her family members present from 6 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Kenneth and Lucille Benda Scholarship Fund.