

Mary Ann Coppinger

Mary Ann Palmer Coppinger, 68, of Oskaloosa died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Northern Mahaska Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Oskaloosa.



Gary Palmer of Cedar Rapids; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren and his sister, Marie Hunerdosse of Fairfield. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Anson and Kenneth Palmer.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, July 30, at First Friends Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Todd Follette and Ron Bryan officiating. Interment will be at a later date in Westfield Cemetery, rural Grinnell. Memorials may be made to First Friends Church, Grinnell; College Avenue Friends Church in Oskaloosa; William Penn University or Camp Quaker Heights.

She was born Nov. 11, 1939, in Grinnell, the daughter of William Kenneth and Bessie Alice Whitaker Palmer. She was raised in Grinnell and graduated from Grinnell High School with the Class of 1957. She graduated from William Penn University in Oskaloosa with a degree in education.

On Aug. 5, 1961, she was united in marriage with Del Coppinger in Grinnell. She was involved in an elementary teaching career while raising two children, Denise and Doug. She was active in Friends Churches. She also was concerned for children, teaching Sunday School classes for many years, and traveled to Jamaica last year as a Vacation Bible School team member. She spent many summers counseling children at Quaker Heights.

She was a member of First Friends Church in Grinnell, supporting her husband as the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends General Superintendent in 1987. They resided in Oskaloosa where she was involved in the Oskaloosa United Society of Friends Women International, receiving the Eliza Armstrong Cox Award in 2008. She brought a fresh perspective as an encourager of women attending Metanoia, an annual Church Women United spiritual retreat. Her leadership in a number of positions locally and at state levels and her genuine concern for others whether next door or around the world, were considered to be an inspiration to others.

She is survived by her husband Del Coppinger of Oskaloosa; one son Douglas Coppinger of Bothell, Wash.; one daughter, Denise Nicholls of Eldora; four grandchildren; three brothers, David Palmer of Grinnell, Dennis Palmer of Aledo, Ill., and Thomas Palmer of Oskaloosa. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

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