

H.R. December 1, 1997

### Signi Falk

Signi Falk, 91, of Grinnell died after a short illness Monday, Nov. 24, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

A memorial service was conducted Saturday at the Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist in Cedar Rapids. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Mount Vernon Memorial Cemetery, Mount Vernon. There will be no visitation. The Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She was the daughter of Charles and Ida Falk and was born Sept. 15, 1906, in Chicago. Following the death of her parents, she was raised by her foster parents, Clyde and Jewell Tull of Mount Vernon. She received her education in Mount Vernon and graduated from Cornell College with a degree in English and Latin.

She received a master's degree in English and psychology from the University of Hawaii and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago. She taught English at

Traer High School in Iowa, at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu and at Colby Junior College in New Hampshire. She was a member of the English Department at Coe College in Cedar Rapids from 1947 until her retirement in 1971. She had been a resident of the Mayflower since 1990.

She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and was the author of two books, "Tennessee Williams" (1962) and "Archibald MacLeish" (1966). The Williams book was printed in a second edition in 1978 after being a best seller in the Twayne Publishers United States Authors Series. She also published a history of her foster parents.

Dr. Falk worked for Common Cause, arms control, women's rights and problems of the elderly. She headed the committee that established the Witwer Senior Center in Cedar Rapids and was active in the League of Women Voters, United Way of Linn County, the Iowa Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International.

From 1972 to 1982 she served on the Iowa advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and was a leader in Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist in Cedar Rapids.

She served on a White House committee dealing with elder issues in 1981, was named the Witwer Center's Volunteer of the Year in 1985 and in 1990 received the Governor's Volunteer Award.

She is survived by her sister, Florence Speer of Phoenix, Ariz., and a special friend, Shirley Henderson of Lansing. She was preceded in death by her parents, her foster parents and one brother, Karl Falk.