

# Betty 'Jean' Johnston, 56

Betty "Jean" Johnston, 56, of Grinnell, died Wednesday, March 27, at her home, of Lou Gehrig's disease.



A funeral was March 29 at Grinnell Christian Church, with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Pallbearers were Mike Arment, Kevin Arment, Jeff Arment, Randy Hall, David Hall, Jeff Hall and Doug Johnston. Burial was in Sully Cemetery. Sully Memorials are to Grinnell Regional Medical Center and MDA. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell is handling arrangements.

Mrs. Johnston was born Aug. 29, 1945, in Oskaloosa, the daughter of Harley and Margaret (Septer) Walker. She was raised in Pershing and Searsboro and attended schools in Attica, Searsboro and Lynnville-Sully. She later moved to Newton and was a 1963 graduate of Newton High School.

On Nov. 20, 1966, she married Ronald

Johnston in Grinnell. She worked several years for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. In 1980, she became a teller for First Federal Bank in Grinnell, where she was employed until her retirement Jan. 11, 2002.

Survivors include her husband Ron of Grinnell; a daughter, Melissa Owens of Grinnell; a son, Kurtis Johnston of Eldridge; a stepdaughter, Rhonda Dvorak of Peoria, Ariz.; her adopted father, Marvin Dieleman of Grinnell; a twin sister, Jane Simbro of Grinnell; a brother, Gary Jess Walker of Des Moines; and one grand-son.

Her parents preceded her in death.

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Betty "Jean" Johnston, 56, of Grinnell died of Lou Gehrig's disease Wednesday, March 27, at her home.

Funeral services were held Friday at the Grinnell Christian Church, with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Pianist was Kathleen McCune, and soloist was Rhonda Minner. Pallbearers were Mike, Kevin and Jeff Arment; Randy, David and Jeff Hall; and Doug Johnston. Burial was at Sully Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The daughter of Harley and Margaret Septer Walker, she was born Aug. 29, 1945, in Oskaloosa. She was raised in Pershing and Searsboro and attended Attica, Searsboro and Lynnville-Sully schools. She later moved to Newton and was a 1963 graduate of Newton high School.

She was married to Ronald Johnston Nov. 20, 1966, in Grinnell. They lived in Grinnell where she was employed at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. for several years. She began her career with First Federal Savings Bank in 1980 and was employed as a bank teller until her retirement Jan. 11 of this year.

Surviving are her husband; two children, Melissa Owens of Grinnell and Kurtis Johnston of Eldridge; one stepdaughter, Rhonda Dvorak of Peoria, Ariz.; her adoptive father, Marvin Dieleman of Grinnell; her twin sister, Jane Simbro of Grinnell; one brother, Gary Jess Walker of Des Moines; and one step-grand-

son.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Grinnell Regional Medical Center or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

HR April 1, 2002

MR April 3, 2002