

# Councilwoman Witt dies Monday at 51

Grinnell City Councilwoman Patricia M. "Patti" Witt, 51, died unexpectedly Monday night, Sept. 24.

She was taken by ambulance to Grinnell Regional Medical Center at about 11 p.m. and was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

The cause of death is pending a post-mortem examination.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Fr. William Reynolds officiating. St. Mary's Choir will provide music.

Friends may call from 3 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the church. A scripture service is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Casket bearers will be Dan Anderson, Jim Connell, Mike Kershaw, Mike Pittman, and Joe and Mike Witt. Honorary bearers will be Charlie Bruggemann, Gordon

Canfield, Danny Carroll, Dennis Kilburg, Tim Moorehead and Jim White. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery.

The Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Mayor issues statement

Mayor Gordon Canfield issued a statement Tuesday regarding the death of Councilwoman Witt.

"This news was both a shock and a surprise to me, as I am sure it was to the many others who knew her," the mayor said. "Though she did not attend [Monday's] council meeting due to illness, no one could know at that time the seriousness of her malady. My heart goes out to her husband Steve and to her children. They have lost a loving wife and mother. On behalf of the City Council and me, I offer condolences to her family."

The mayor called Mrs. Witt "a devoted family person," and noted that she served on the council's Public Works and Planning committees, as well as on the Poweshiek Area Development Housing Committee. "Patti also took time from her busy work schedule to become involved with the Grinnell Tourism Committee," Canfield added.

He concluded: "She was a very kind woman, yet was not afraid to voice her opinion on matters that had meaning to her, and her words were always appreciated. We shall dearly miss her."

She was born Oct. 26, 1949, in Davenport to Chester and Elizabeth Moravek Finkenhoefer. She was raised in Davenport and graduated from Davenport West High School. She also received a degree in nursing from the former Marycrest College in Davenport and was working on her master's degree from St. Ambrose University there.

On Feb. 9, 1974, she was married to Stephen Witt in Davenport. They lived in Davenport and Clinton before moving to Grinnell in 1986.

For the past 11 years, she had worked for F&M Bank in Grinnell. At the time of her death, she was regional sales manager for the bank.

Mrs. Witt was elected to a four-year term on the Grinnell City Council in November 1999, representing the city's Second Ward. She was an active supporter of Birthright. She was also a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, where she was a lay minister and a religious education teacher. She was past president of the Grinnell Lions Club and a board member of the Grinnell 2000 Foundation, now Imagine Grinnell.

Surviving are her husband; one son, Kevin of Phoenix, Ariz.; two daughters, Courtney Witt of Manitou Springs, Colo., and Julie Witt of Clinton; her mother, Elizabeth Finkenhoefer of Davenport; five sisters, Mary Ann Anderson of Eldridge, Kathy Orcutt of Nevada, Diane Thomas of LeClaire, Liz Kershaw of Naperville, Ill., and Ann Peteria of Davenport; and three brothers, Thomas Finkenhoefer of Aurora, Ill., Steven Finkenhoefer of Blue Grass and James Finkenhoefer of Snellville, Ga.

Her father preceded her in death.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Mary's Foundation or to the Breast Cancer Foundation and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box. 368, Grinnell 50112.

H-R September 27, 2001



Patricia M. Witt