

Patricia VerStraeten, 80

Mrs. Patricia VerStraeten, 80, of Grinnell and a former resident of Iowa City, died Thursday, January 8, 2004, at the Mayflower Home in Grinnell.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m. Sunday at the Nevenhoven Funeral Home in Brooklyn, with Pastor John Reynolds Jr., of the First Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial was in the Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery.

The honorary casket bearer was Harry Aicher. The casket bearers were Nancy Keller, Molly Carlson, Beau Carlson, Brittany Carlson, Mike Minnaert and Ed Carpenter.

A memorial fund has been established in her memory for the Mayflower Home.

Patricia Marjorie Westall VerStraeten, the daughter of James Cates and Hazel Mae Walker Westall, was born November 17, 1923, in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts. She graduated from Springfield High School (Springfield, Mass.) in 1942.

She served with the W.A.V.E.S. as a meteorologist. While in the service, she met Frederick (Fritz) Carlson. They married Aug. 17, 1946, in Norfolk, Virginia. After military service, they moved to Brooklyn. Mr. Carlson died on August 16, 1960.

Patricia worked as a substitute mail carrier, bookkeeper at the Brooklyn Creamery, and as an employee of Brooklyn Mutual Telephone Company.

On July 6, 1966, Patricia married Edward John (Jack) VerStraeten in Iowa City, where they lived for 30 years. She worked as a bookkeeper for Clements & Co, Iowa City. She also operated a bookkeeping service with her husband out of their home. Mr. VerStraeten died November 27, 1996. For the past six years, Patricia was a resident of the Mayflower Home in Grinnell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; her daughter, Laurie Carlson; her grandson, Todd Keller; her brother, Warren Westall; and her sisters Edith Taft and Carol Long.

She is survived by her daughter, Bonnie Keller, of Deep River; her sons, James Carlson of Des Moines and Jack (Linda) Carlson of Bettendorf; her brother, James Westall of Scappoose, Ore.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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