

PCCR Nov 4, 2009

Rice Bettye J

Bettye J. Rice, 69

Bettye J. Rice, age 69, of Montezuma and formerly of Grinnell, died Monday, Oct. 26, 2009, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 30, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Mary Cole-Duvall, rector of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in West Des Moines, officiating.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family on the Smith Funeral Home Web site at www.smith-fh.com.

Bettye was born the daughter of Dale and Mildred Reynolds Priest on Sept. 30, 1940, in Omaha, Neb. She was raised in Shenandoah, and she graduated from Shenandoah High School with the class of 1958. She then attended beauty school in Des Moines for two years. Following her education, she was a beautician at a beauty salon in Des Moines for a few years.

Bettye was united in marriage to Steve Rice on Aug. 25, 1962, in Shenandoah. The couple was blessed with three children: Raye, Patrick, and Michelle. They raised their family in Grinnell for several years and then built a home at Lake Ponderosa near Montezuma in 1988. Steve and Bettye purchased the Red Carpet Motel in Knoxville in 1988, and they owned and operated the motel until their retirement in 1998.

Bettye was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and she was a Cub Scouts leader. She had spent her retirement years studying and painting water colors. Her enjoyments included fishing, reading, watching movies, and spending time with her family, including her cat, Chelsey.

Bettye is survived by her husband of 47 years, Steve Rice of Montezuma; her children, Patrick (Laura) Rice of Johnston, and Michelle (Bill Miller) Rice of Altoona; and her grandchildren, David and Kristina Rice of Johnston, and Trevor and Sydney Miller of Altoona.

Bettye was preceded in death by her parents; and her son, Raye Rice.

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Visitation will be held one hour prior to her service on Friday at the Smith Funeral Home.

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Bettye is survived by her husband of 47 years, Steve Rice of Montezuma; her children Patrick Rice of Johnston and Michelle Rice of Altoona; and five grandchildren.

Bettye was preceded in death by her parents; and her son, Raye Rice.