

Joyce DeBrower, 71

Joyce DeBrower, 71, of Marengo and formerly of Victor, died Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, at University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

A funeral mass was held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 7, at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Victor with Father Brian Shepley officiating. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery in Victor.

Memorials may be directed to the Joyce I. DeBrower Memorial Fund and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 485, Victor, Iowa, 52347. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Joyce Irene DeBrower was born at home on July 27, 1939, in Iowa County, the first daughter of Arthur and Evalena Van Gampleare DeBrower. She became ill with encephalitis at the age of three that resulted in epilepsy and cerebral palsy. She attended country school through the fifth grade. In 1969, she attended Iowa County Developmental Center in Iowa County, where she continued her education. She lived with her parents, assisting them with family care of eight brothers and two sisters. In 1990, she moved to Hillside Estate in Williamsburg, residing there until it closed in 2007. She then moved to Rose Haven Nursing Home in Marengo.

On Dec. 1, 1980, she was employed by Rural Employment Alternatives in Conroy, where she performed various jobs for local businesses, including Amana Refrigeration and Kinze Manufacturing. Some of her most preferred jobs were preparing information for mailings and packaging a variety of items. She was always proud to tell her family which project she was working on. Health conditions required her to retire on Feb. 13, 2008.

Joyce was a devoted Iowa Hawkeye fan. She was a very social person and enjoyed visiting with her friends from Hillside and Rose Haven, especially about her family that she was so proud of. She enjoyed the various outings planned by REA, Hillside Estate and Rose Haven. Joyce enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, playing cards, dominoes, Wi-Fi, and bowling. She made jewelry and enjoyed making many craft projects that she would lovingly give to family members. She enjoyed collecting photos of nieces and nephews that she kept in numerous photo albums. Joyce always remembered everyone in the family and she enjoyed all the family gatherings. She was greatly loved by all and she was a very special part of the family.

Joyce is survived by five brothers, John (Carol Ann) DeBrower of Cedar Rapids, Douglas (Kim) DeBrower, Dean (Nancy) DeBrower, William (Linda) DeBrower, all of Victor, and Harold (Susan) DeBrower of Ladora; and two sisters, Carole (Harold) Blomme of Amherst, Colo., and Elaine (Craig) Rhinehart of Brooklyn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Frank, Thomas, and David; and several nephews.

