

Frances M. Peak



Frances M. Peak, 96, of Grinnell, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at her home.

A celebration of her life will be held 10:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 16, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation was scheduled for Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home from 12 noon until 7 p.m., with the family present to greet friends from 5 until 7 p.m.

Memorials may be designated to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the American Cancer Society, sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at www.smithfh.com.

Frances was born on June 16, 1915,

to George D. and Ethel Howard McIlrath in Kansas City, Mo. She attended public schools in Kansas City and graduated from Kansas City Dental College.

Frances married the love of her life, William "Bill" Peak on July 4, 1937, in Newton. They made their home in Grinnell, raising three children; their love and lifetime partnership continued in all aspects.

Frances was active as a member of PEO, Drummonds, Pi Rho Lambda, and several bridge clubs. Great friendships also grew with her participation in golf at the Grinnell Country Club, one of her favorite activities, and her other enjoyments included sewing, knitting, painting, reading and travel. Family was always first and foremost in her life, however, and she always had an optimistic outlook and smile even in difficult circumstances.

Frances is survived by her children Patty Johnson, Jean Kinnaird, and Bob Peak, all of Grinnell; five grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, William Peak in 1985; and her siblings, Howard McIlrath, Patricia McIlrath, Robert McIlrath, and Jeanne McIlrath Finter.

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