

## Bette L. Kersey

Bette L. Kersey, age 86, of Grinnell, died on Friday, December 29, 2012, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 3, 2013, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell with Rev. Kirsten Klepfer, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiating.

Memorials may be designated to the Mayflower Community Human Needs Fund or to Grinnell Regional Hospice. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).



Bette DePue was born on November 25, 1926, in Galesburg, Illinois, to DeWitt and Madeline DePue. She grew up in Hesston, Kansas and Morris County, New Jersey, where she graduated from high school. In 1944, she married Harold Rutledge and they had two daughters, Charlaine and Suzanne. They lived in Westbury, New York, until Harold's death. Bette married Roger Kersey and the couple lived in Amityville, New York, and Garwin, Iowa. Roger died in 1992 and in 1996, Bette moved to Grinnell and lived in the Mayflower Community.

Bette had several careers and during her years in New York, she supervised key press operators at O.E. McIntyre. Her management abilities were noticed and she became a training supervisor. This experience led to her training management positions at Mercy Hospital, Rockville Center and Abraham & Straus, a large retail store. When she moved to Iowa she continued to make good use of her organizational skills. She did freelance writing and became volunteer coordinator at Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown, establishing an adult education program to tutor adults. Bette was active politically. She was the first woman appointed to the District Six Judicial Nominating Commission by Governor Brandstad. In 1998, she received the Governor's Volunteer Award for outstanding service to the State of Iowa. She managed the Conant Farm Kennel and served on the boards of Iowa River Hospice and Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center, including a term as president. Bette became very involved in the life of Mayflower Community. She wrote for the Log, was editor for the 50th Anniversary Book and the oral history of Mayflower; under her leadership the mini gift shop received a new look. She was the first coordinator of Independent Resident Activities, and she was the Mayflower Historian for several years.

Bette was a friend to all and a mentor to many. She showed each of us how to live life to the fullest and have a strong faith in God.

Bette is survived by her daughters Charlaine Ewan of Grinnell and Suzanne (Don) Viel of Kalamazoo, Michigan; three step children Glenn (Jill) Kersey of San Francisco, California, Cary (Mike) Goodman of Fairfield, Connecticut, and Scott (Judy) Kersey of Scotch Plains, New Jersey; six grandchildren Jason (Carrie) Viel of LeClaire, Iowa, Sara (Brian) Staley of Oakland, California, Kirsten Kersey and Matthew Kersey, both of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, Paul Goodman of Fairfield, Connecticut, and Doug (Katie) Goodman of Manchester, Connecticut; and two great grandchildren Connor and Cody Viel.

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