

## Mary Elizabeth Draegert, 76

Mary Elizabeth "Bess" Draegert, 76, of Grinnell, died Oct. 7, 2013, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastors John Epperson, Harley Schull and Ian Draegert and family friend Jeff Scott officiating. Honorary bearers are all of Bess' friends.

Burial will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Bess Draegert Memorial Fund.

Bess was born Aug. 19, 1937, in Marshalltown, the daughter of Russell Eugene and Floreene Swearingen Innis. She was raised in Marshalltown and attended school there.

On Feb. 29, 1956, she was united in marriage with Donald Alton Draegert in Hannibal, Mo. The couple lived in Marshalltown, Cannon City, Colo., where they ran a meat locker for several years, and then moved to Maxwell in 1971. She later moved to Grinnell in 1987 and was employed as a night auditor at the Days Inn for 17 years.

She was a member of the Church of the Nazarene and Christian Church in Grinnell and the Ladies Bible Study with Jan Epperson.

Bess loved spending time with her family and being with people. She was very giving and generous to family and friends; and was always willing to extend a helping hand to any animal or person. She was an overall Humanitarian. She enjoyed reading, sewing, flowers and running her dogs, two at a time. She also enjoyed volunteering to clean her church, cooking and camping.

Survivors include two children, Ian (Jamie) Draegert of Des Moines and Tanya (Donnie) Ellis of Grinnell; two brothers, Bobby Innis of Grinnell and Kenneth (Vicki) Innis of Harlock, N.C.; two sisters Ruth (Steve) Kirby of Newburg and Doretta Costello of Teaneck, N.J.; two grandchildren, Jackie Means of Madrid and Jarren Draegert of Grinnell; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Floreene; her husband, Donald; two brothers, Buddy and Billy; and one sister, Hazel Draegert.

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Visitation with the family present will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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