

## Mary Lou Mikel

Mary Lou Mikel, 78, of Bloomington, Ind., and formerly of Grinnell, died Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, at the home of her daughter in Bloomington.

A funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29, at First Friends Church in Grinnell. Interment will be at the Chester Cemetery north of Grinnell.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning at 2 p.m. on Monday and the family will be present at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday.

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guard on the Newburg basketball team and graduated as valedictorian from Newburg High School with the Class of 1953.

On Sept. 2, 1953, she was united in marriage with Harvey Mikel, who had taken her to church with him. The couple farmed north of Grinnell in Chester Township for over 50 years. She enjoyed making a large garden and canning food for the family, sewing their clothes, wood working and living the life of a farm wife.

In later years, the couple hosted students Alfonso Gomez of Mexico and Karin Reid of Norway in their home through the Rotary Exchange Program, as their own children were also Rotary exchange students. They hosted international students from Grinnell College, and also loved to travel themselves. She was known as an accomplished baker.

She was a long-time member of the First Friends Church in Grinnell and taught Sunday school for many years. She was also a crafts leader and camp counselor at Camp Quaker Heights, worked as a driver for Diamond Life Home and assisted at the Station Club House in Grinnell. She volunteered as a hospice caregiver and worked in retail at French's Variety Store. While living in Bloomington, she attended the Clearnote Church with her daughter's family and she enjoyed continuing her ministry with the children.

Survivors include her children, Linda Hess of Bloomington, Ind., Elaine Jolayemi of Indianapolis, Ind., Martha Mikel Hong of West Windsor, N.J., and Glen Mikel of Des Moines; 12 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and two brothers, Frederick H. Ebert of Puyallup, Wash. and Richard Ebert of Grinnell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and two grandsons.

## Mary Lou Mikel

6H-R 10-28-2013



Mary Lou Mikel, 78, of Bloomington, Ind., and formerly of Grinnell, Glenwood, Ariz., and Rockport, Texas, died Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, at the home of her daughter in Bloomington.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the First Friends Church, south of Grinnell, with the Rev. Keith Morrison, chaplain of Grinnell Regional Hospice, officiating. Pianist will be Kathleen McCune. Casket bearers will be Glen Mikel, Jarrid Mikel, Taylor Mikel, Abram Hess, Caleb Hess and Emily Pickney. Interment will be at Chester Cemetery, north of Grinnell.

Memorials may be directed to the Camp Scholarship Fund of the Grinnell First Friends Church and sent in care of Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Online condolences may be sent to [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Mary Lou was born June 12, 1935, in Marshalltown to Frederick and Bessie Gaugh Ebert. She lived with her family in the Gilman and Kellogg areas before settling in Newburg. She played