

PLER Katherine A. White, 89 ⁶⁻¹¹⁻²⁰¹⁴

Katherine A. White, 89, of Grinnell died June 6, 2014, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 9, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Ron Hodges officiating. Organist was Marilyn Kriegel accompanied by the St. Mary's Choir. Soloist was Milton Severe. Pallbearers were her grandchildren, Jeff & Dianne Vogel, Mike and Lori Vogel, Laurie & Greg Jansen, Sarah and Henry White-Rietz, Justin and Lindy White, Jessica White, Brian and Katy White, Travis and Marta White, Tony Starbuck, Megan Starbuck and Brent Bochman and Charlie Starbuck. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Brooklyn.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Katherine A. White Memorial Fund.

Katherine was born July 11, 1924, in Zearing, the daughter of John Martin and Lumilla Margaret Morrell Varnum. She was raised in Zearing and was a 1943 graduate of Zearing High School.

On July 2, 1944, she was united in marriage with Floyd M. "Bud" White in Nevada. The couple farmed southeast of Malcom prior to moving to Nevada in 1971. While there, she was employed at Donnelly's Cafeteria for several years. In 1984, they moved to Grinnell to retire and she had been a resident of St. Francis Manor since 2011.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society.

Katherine sold Avon products for 25 years, but more importantly she was a mother of five children and was in charge of her household. Her family was her focal point! She enjoyed sewing, quilting, crocheting and was a wonderful cook. She was known for baking cookies and sharing them with her family and friends. She also made pies for several area restaurants. She loved camping and fishing, and spending her winters in Texas.

Survivors include four children, Rita (Larry) Vogel of Malcom, Jim (Marcia) White of Grinnell, Pat (Wanda) White of Grinnell and Helen (Doug) Starbuck of Nevada; an "honor daughter" Dianna Schinckel Tully of Warrenton, Va.; three sisters, Martha Garfield of Sebastopol, Calif., Alma Noel of Dubuque and Veronica Guthrie of Grinnell; two brothers, John Varnum of Perry and Harvey Varnum of Marshalltown; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bud in 2011; two sons, Francis White in infancy in 1948 and Kevin White in 2001; one sister, Mary Elizabeth Varnum; one brother and his wife, Fred and Pat Varnum; and five brother-in-laws, Jim Guthrie, Dick Noel, Dick Garfield, Dick Seversike and E.L. Marlow and his wife, Kate.



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Visitation was held from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the family present from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday evening.

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