

Phyllis R. Bellis ^{614-R} 2-23-2015



Phyllis R. Bellis, 105, of Grinnell died on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at the Mayflower Community.

A celebration of her life will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 25, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community with the Rev. Cameron Barr, United Church of Christ-Congregational in Grinnell, officiating. Pianist will be Dr. William Tinker. Burial will be held at a later date at the Ocean Woods Memorial Cemetery in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The family suggests that those desiring to make memorial gifts in Phyllis' memory

donate to either the U.C.C. - Congregational or Mayflower Human Needs Fund. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family on the Smith Funeral Home website at www.smithfh.com.

Phyllis was born January 3, 1910, in DeKalb, Illinois, and later her family relocated to Chicago where she was raised and educated. She graduated from Lindblom High School and attended the University of Chicago. Following her education, she worked as a secretary for several years for Senator J. Hamilton Lewis and his wife in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

She was united in marriage with Wilfred Bellis on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1932, at her family home in Chicago. She first met Wilfred when she was nine years old as they were classmates and attended the same church. They had two daughters, Shane and Judith, who attended the same elementary and high schools as their parents. They lived in the same neighborhood, near both of their families until 1956, when they moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. They had nine happy years there before moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, and later Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1970, the couple moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to retire where they enjoyed walks on the beach, playing lots of golf and family visits.

Phyllis' husband passed away in 1981, and later due to some health issues she decided to move to Grinnell, where her daughter, Shane, was living.

Phyllis was deeply devoted and an active member of both the Congregational and Methodist churches throughout her life. She served as president of the PTA for two years and was a member of the D.A.R., Amaranth, Phi Delta Zeta sorority and several book clubs.

While living at the Mayflower Community, Phyllis carried on a rather extensive correspondence, read a couple of mystery novels a week, played bridge once or twice a week and enjoyed participating in various activities. More importantly, she loved visiting and sharing her time with her family.

Survivors include one daughter, Judy Ayers of Locust Grove, Virginia; four grandsons, Ronald Cook and Richard, William and Mark Ayers; and six great-grandchildren, Amanda, Shelby, Will, Jr., Jack, Tatum and Izabelle. Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her daughter, Shane; and one sister, Joyce Andrews.