

Dorothy Bell Breuning ^{64-R} 6-23-2016

Dorothy Bell Breuning, 88, a resident of the Mayflower Community in Grinnell, Iowa, since 2007, passed away at Grinnell Regional Medical Center on June 9, 2016 following a brief illness.

Born to Glen Vernon and Flonnie Ethel (Cooper) Bell on August 12, 1927, in Monroe, Iowa, Dorothy attended Grinnell schools and graduated from Grinnell High School in 1945. She was accepted into the United States Nurse Cadet Corps and graduated in 1948 from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She took great pride in her thirty-five-year career as a registered nurse which began at Fort Defiance Indian Hospital in Arizona and continued on in Iowa, Nebraska, and California. Her nursing practice included being a natural childbirth educator in the 1950s and working as a medical/surgical staff nurse and supervisor in various hospital, school, and military settings.

She was married to Sterling F. McNelly from 1953-1974 and to Erich E. Breuning from March 8, 1979, until his death on June 13, 1990. Dorothy lived in Southern California for forty years and traveled extensively during that time. She maintained close relationships with her GHS and St. Luke's classmates throughout her life. Later in life she was drawn back to her Iowa roots and enjoyed her many friends and activities in Grinnell. Dorothy was devoted to and much loved by family, friends, and neighbors. She was a lifelong learner and independent thinker who especially enjoyed the outdoors, birding, and keeping fit.

She leaves behind Arthur Strawser of Grinnell, Iowa, and family; her three children, Elizabeth Ann (Frederick Mesloh) McNelly of Leyden, Mass., Catherine (Timothy) Ball of Powell, Ohio, and John (Diane and family) McNelly Escondido, Calif.; grandchildren David Ball, Andrew McNelly, and Nicolas (Chelsea) Mesloh; and stepdaughter Veronique Breuning of Roseville, Calif., and family. She is also survived by brothers Glen Bell and Joseph Bell and brother-in-law Jason Jones, and sister Margaret (Bell) (Wyss) Stone; sister-in-law Joyce (Lidtka) Bell; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her stepson Christophe Breuning; sister and brother-in-law Edith (Bell) and Floyd Harness; brother and sister-in-law Kenneth and Lila (Routier) Bell; brother Richard Bell; sister-in-law Florence (Wright) Bell; and nephew David Wyss.

According to her wishes no services will be held.

Her children request that in lieu of flowers her memory be kept alive through acts of kindness.