

Irene Criswell



Irene Criswell, 86, of Grinnell and formerly of Newton, died on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A celebration of her life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, June 6, at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastor John Epperson officiating. Visitation will be held prior to her service beginning at 9 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Pallbearers are her grandsons, Marty and Mitchell Chipps, Bob and Tyler Rawlins, Nick Glotfelty, and great grandson, Austin Chipps. Honorary bearers are her great grandchildren, Ethan Chipps, Margo Chipps, Conner Rawlins, Meredith Chipps, Callie Rawlins, and Carter Rawlins.

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Memorials may be designated to the St. Francis Manor Activity Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family online at www.smithfh.com.

Florence Irene Williamson Criswell was born the daughter of Ronald Neil Williamson and Mabel Roudabush Williamson on May 17, 1930, in Ladora. She was raised and educated in Hartwick. Following her education, she honorably served in the United States Women's Army Corps.

She was united in marriage to Robert Lee Criswell on April 28, 1950, in Grinnell, and they had four children. They resided in the Grinnell, Kellogg and Newton areas and Irene was a longtime employee of the Maytag Corporation in Newton until her retirement in 1985. She was a member of the Kellogg Christian Church.

Irene cherished the time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was an excellent cook and was famous for her chocolate pies. She held a passion for crocheting and made countless afghans, quilts and pot holders. Her enjoyments included watching old Andy Griffith shows on TV, playing bingo, traveling to Arizona, tending to her flower and vegetable gardens, and going camping and fishing with her family.

Irene is survived by her children, Beverly Chipps of Monroe, Neil Criswell of Titonka, Sharon Rawlins of Kellogg, and Marla Glotfelty of Kellogg; five grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and sister, Linda Davis of Ladora.