

## Linda L. Thomas, 57

Linda L. Thomas, 57, of What Cheer, died Thursday, March 2, 2006 at her home of cancer.

Linda was cremated and a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at the What Cheer United Methodist Church with the Rev. Vince Homan officiating. The family will greet friends during a luncheon at the church immediately following the service. Harden Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Linda was born on Jan. 30, 1949 in Montezuma, the daughter of Lowell C. and Allene N. Plate Richman. She was raised in Montezuma and attended the Montezuma Schools until the 10th grade. She later obtained her GED and a degree in accounting from the Marshalltown Area Community College in 1981. Linda was united in marriage to Jackie Lee Nichol- sen in October of 1964 at the Montezuma United Methodist Church. They later divorced. On Dec. 28, 1989, Linda was united in marriage to Bill Thomas at the What Cheer United Methodist Church. She spent her life as a domestic engineer, a secretary, waitress/bartender, cook, tool belt diva, managed a fabric store, sold Mary Kay, a dry cleaner, and owned and operated the Coal Creek Cafe in What Cheer. Linda's enjoyments included quilt-

ing, gardening, crafts, antiques, dumpster diving, road trips, hunting, baking, the holidays, and most of all, spending time with her grandkids. She was dedicated to her family and always thought of others before herself. Linda was a member of the What Cheer United Methodist Church, the Eastern Star, the Montezuma Quilt Guild and Trees Forever.

Survivors include her parents, Lawrence and Allene Fleming of Montezuma; her husband, Bill Thomas, of What Cheer; two sons, Troy Nichol- sen and wife Marika of What Cheer and Trevor Nichol- sen and wife Jennifer of Wellman; a daughter, Tracy Bru and husband Kevin of Montezuma; and eight siblings, Karen Baethke of New Virginia, Ron Richman and wife Polly of Bridgeport, W.V., Rick Richman and wife Pam of Portland, Ore., Greg Flemming and wife Diana of Montezuma, Tim Rich- man and wife Michelle of Denver, Colo., Becky Westphal and husband Keith of Columbus City, Susan Cline and husband Roger of Iowa City and Barbara Richman of Phoenix, Ariz; ten grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lowell, a grandchild, a sister, Kathy Zimmerman, and a brother-in-law, Gene Baethke.