

Berneice L. Fritz

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3/25-28/2019

Berneice Laurene (Lauber) Fritz, (91), passed away on March 13, 2019, at her home in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. She married Richard M. Fritz on July 26, 1952, with whom she shared sixty-six years of life together. After living in El Paso, Texas, and San Francisco, Calif., the couple settled in Newton, Iowa, where they started their family. In 1974, they relocated to Nebraska, and then to Florida in the mid-80s where they ultimately retired. Berneice and Dick lived in Palm Harbor, Fla., until moving to Old Greenwich, Conn., in 2015.



Born on June 2, 1927, in the community of Rock Creek Township, Iowa (near Grinnell), Berneice was the daughter of Henry Lauber and Pearl (Young) Lauber. She graduated from Grinnell High School in 1945 and worked for Equitable Life Insurance Company in Des Moines, Iowa, before focusing full-time on her family. After relocating to Florida, Berneice enjoyed a 20+ year career in retail, ultimately retiring from Dillard's Department Store in Clearwater, Fla., at the age of 82.

Berneice was a member of the First Presbyterian Churches in Newton, Iowa, and Kearney, Neb., and the P.E.O. women's philanthropic educational organization. She enjoyed playing bridge, being active in dance clubs and volunteering at the local hospitals. An avid sports fan, she followed her favorite teams, players and coaches, and was always up to date on the latest scores and highlights.

Berneice will be most remembered for her love and dedication to her husband, children and grandchildren. Over the years she never missed a school activity or game in which her children were participating (and often grandchildren), from band concerts to swim meets, basketball and football games. She would be the first to provide a congratulatory word for a victory and a warm hug after a defeat. Berneice enjoyed family vacations at Clear Lake, Iowa, in the early years, and numerous extended family trips to Cape Cod, the Green Mountains in Vermont and family time at the Florida beaches with the grandkids.

Berneice is survived by her husband Richard (Dick), and children Pamela J. Wood (Martin) of Colorado Springs, Colo., Margaret (Peg) Fritz Wentworth (Barry) of Old Greenwich, Conn., and Richard Moyle Fritz, Jr. (Trudy) of Wellington, Fla. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Michelle M. Wood, Megan S. Wood, Richard M. Fritz, III (Trey), Kohlman J. Fritz and Kathryn L. Wentworth (Kate).

Berneice was preceded in death by her parents and four siblings, Lois Crawford, Doris Winchell, Keith Lauber and Merlin Lauber. She is survived by six siblings, Jacqueline Gregson (Donald) of Livermore, Calif., Duane Lauber (Marlene) of Newton, Iowa, Donna German (Larry) of Grinnell, Iowa, MJ Mitchell of Las Vegas, Nev., Joan Rowland (Charles) of Dallas, Texas, and Carol Lauber of Lafayette, Colo.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday March 29, 2019, at Grinnell Methodist Church located at 916 5th Ave., Grinnell, Iowa, with interment at Bethel Cemetery in rural Jasper County north of Lynnvile, Iowa, on Hwy T38 South. Arrangements are being coordinated by Smith Funeral Home, Grinnell.

Memorial donations may be made to Friends of Greenwich Point, PO Box 711, Old Greenwich, CT 06870 (friendsofgreenwichpoint.org). Please note that your donation is in memory of Berneice Fritz.