Helene Louise Wilder

Helene Louise Wilder, 101, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, July 7, 2019, at UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A rosary is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell.

A funeral mass is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell.

A luncheon will follow mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell.

The family requests no flowers and would like memorials to be designated to the Iowa Special Olympics, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Helene was born on August 25, 1917, in Worthington, Minnesota, the daughter of George and Magdalena (Netter) Luffey. Helene attended school in Worthington, Minnesota, and graduated in 1935. She also received her BSN in nursing.

Helene was united in marriage to Francis "Frank" James Wilder at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Delano, Minnesota, on June 28, 1941, and to this union there were five children. Following their marriage, the couple lived in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Winona before moving to Oskaloosa in the early 1950s. While living in Oskaloosa, she was a registered nurse for various doctors and the Mahaska County Hospital. In 1979 the couple moved to Grinnell to retire. Helene loved nature. Helene also enjoyed traveling throughout North America, Europe and Africa. Helene was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell and the Marian Study Club. She will be remembered for her sense of humor and for being the live wire of the family.

Helene is survived by her children, Kay (Cecil) Wehr of Lawrence, Kansas, Sheila Wilder of Grinnell, Dennis (Gail) Wilder of Ft. Myers, Florida, Barb (Jim) Gawloski of Burlington, Wisconsin, and Patrick (Corrine) Wilder of West Palm Beach, Florida; nine grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis James Wilder; her parents, George and Magdalena Luffey; and her brother, Jerry Thomas Luffey.