



Dorothy Gertrude Smith
Oct. 15, 1932 - Oct. 16, 2019

Dorothy Smith, 87, of What Cheer, died Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the Manor House Care Center in Sigourney. Services were Monday, Oct. 21 in What Cheer. Memorial contributions may be made to the What Cheer Fire and Rescue or to the Barnes City Fire and Rescue.

Dorothy Gertrude Chandler Smith was born Oct. 15, 1932 at the Chandler farm near Gibson to Elmo and Olive Chandler. Dorothy was a 1951 graduate of the Gibson High School where she played basketball and "kittenball." On June 8, 1952 she married Richard James Smith, her grade school and neighbor boyfriend, they were married 61 years. She worked as a farm wife and home maker for several years. After her children were raised Dorothy went to work with Richard in Iowa City at the University of Iowa as a custodian. She later transferred to the U of I Hospital for 13 years. After retiring she worked at a motel and William Penn College in the kitchen as a cashier. Richard and Dorothy both worked cleaning for Crop Production in both Gibson and Keswick, the Gibson Bank, and Christian Church in What Cheer. She started helping her family mow Indianapolis Cemetery when she was in 6th grade. For 68 years she looked after the cemetery until 2014, when her son took it over. Dorothy liked planting lots of flowers, canning, and gardening. She had a bookcase full of cook books. Dorothy liked trying different recipes and adding her own twist. She enjoyed taking her fabric articles, canned goods and baked goods to the What Cheer and Oskaloosa Fair.

Dorothy enjoyed collecting dolls and taking bus trips with her husband to several states including Alaska and Canada.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard Smith; and a granddaughter Olivia Van Dalen.

Dorothy is survived by her son Paul Smith of What Cheer; three daughters, Paulette German of New Sharon, Patricia Van Dalen of Oskaloosa and Priscilla (Sam) Ferre of Oskaloosa; a brother, Harry (Velma) Chandler of New Sharon; and an aunt, Mary Louise Utt, of Ankeny. She also leaves behind nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren with one on the way.