

Kathleen Heffner

Kathleen Heffner, 95, of Grinnell, died on Friday, May 8, 2020, at Unity Point Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Services are pending at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

A memorial fund will be established. Condolences may be shared with Kathleen's family online at www.smithfh.com.

6H-R 5-11-2020

Kathleen Heffner 6H-R 5-14-2020



Kathleen Heffner, 95, of Grinnell, died on May 8, 2020, at UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A private family funeral service is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Dave Crow officiating. Organist will be Linda Bryant and vocalists will be Barbara Noe Koch and Milton Severe. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Due to the health and safety concerns regarding COVID-19 pandemic, the public can follow her service at Grinnell United Methodist Church Live Stream at <https://www.facebook.com/grinnellumc>.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell United Methodist Church.

Kathleen was born on November 24, 1924, at home in rural Tama County, the daughter of Samuel Bismarck and Winona Grace Andrews Barr. She lived in Marshalltown and Malcom prior to moving to Grinnell in 1941. She was a 1942 graduate of Grinnell High School. After high school, she worked for the wife of the Grinnell College President for several years.

During World War II, she worked for the Civil Service at Fort Ord U.S. Regional Army Hospital as an Ediphone Dictaphone Voice writer. She returned to Grinnell in 1945 and was employed at Poweshiek Mutual with Art McDowell until 1952. After 1952, and for the duration of her life, she kept very busy raising her family, working as a travel agent, and for 55 years was the church organist at Grinnell United Methodist Church. She played for many weddings, funerals, and other events in Grinnell and held an extensive music repertory which many other organists could borrow. She was always dependable!

On November 17, 1951, she was united in marriage to John "Willard" Heffner, at the Trinity American Lutheran Church in Malcom. They shared in life for nearly 31 years before his passing in 1982.

Kathleen is survived by her daughter, Cynthia Osburn of Birmingham, Alabama; her granddaughter, Dr. Celeste (Ben) Capers Brancato of St. Louis, Missouri; and two great-grandsons, Maxwell and Alexander Brancato of St. Louis. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Willard in 1982; a daughter, Susan Capers in 2018; two sons-in-law, Fred Capers in 2010 and Daniel Osburn in 2016; two grandsons, Justin Capers in 1982 and Andrew Capers in 2003; and a sister, Dorothy Primus.