

6H-R 4-6-2020

## Sharon McIlrath Johnston

Sharon McIlrath Johnston, 82, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A private family graveside service will be held Monday, April 6, 2020, at Sully Cemetery in Sully. A public

visitation and funeral service will be held at a later date due to the COVID-19 federal and state guidelines on limited gatherings.

A memorial fund will be established to honor Sharon's memory. Memories and condolences may be shared with Sharon's family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

4-9-2020  
6H-R Sharon L. Johnston

Sharon L. (McIlrath) Johnston, age 82, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell with her family by her side.

A private family graveside service was held on Monday, April 6, 2020, at Sully Cemetery in Sully, Iowa. A public visitation and service will be held at a later date due to the federal and state COVID-19 guidelines on limited gatherings.



In lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Heart Association, Diabetes Foundation, American Cancer Society, or to Grinnell Christian Church, and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa. Memories and condolences may be shared with Sharon's family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Sharon Lee McIlrath was born May 6, 1937, at her grandmother's house outside of Newburg to Geneive (Iske) and James Harley McIlrath. She attended school at Chester #9 Country School. She was proud to graduate in 1955 from Newburg Consolidated School as valedictorian of her class. In 1956 Sharon married Floyd Junior "Jr." Kaisand. To them, one daughter was born in 1966, Kimberly Sue.

In 2003 Sharon married Ron Johnston with whom she would spend her golden years. She loved him dearly. With this marriage she gained daughter Rhonda (Jeff) Dvorak of Sun, Ariz., son Kurt (Amanda) of Houston, Texas, and daughter Melissa (James) Owens of Grinnell, Iowa; and three grandchildren, Ryan of Arizona, Morgan of Texas, and Blake of Grinnell, Iowa.

Sharon and Ron enjoyed traveling and playing cards with friends in the area. In addition to traveling, Sharon enjoyed her flower and vegetable gardens, sewing, shopping for bargains, and walking. Above all else, Sharon enjoyed spending time with her family. She spoke of her "kids" often and especially towards the end. Her kids included her siblings, daughter, and grandchildren. Her kids meant so much to her that she rallied to spend a full day of laughter and joking with her grandchildren from Salt Lake City. This day created so many fun memories (on top of their already plentiful memories) for all of them that they will cherish forever.

Sharon was selfless and giving. She would do anything she could to help those who she loved. She was quick to volunteer to do whatever she could when she saw a need. She was always quick with advice.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents and brother, James Harley II. She is survived by her husband, Ron Johnston of Grinnell; daughter, Kim (Neil) Maidment; grandson Matthew Arensdorf and granddaughters Geneive Hannah and Gabriella Elizabeth Miller, all of Salt Lake City, Utah; siblings Nancy (Jim) Williams of Grinnell, Marlene McIlrath of Grinnell, Kathy (Pat) Brown of Grundy Center, Iowa, and Stan (Pam) McIlrath of Grinnell; and sister-in-law Patricia McIlrath. Sharon also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews, who she loved.

## Sharon L. Johnston <sup>64-R</sup> 7-16-2020

Sharon L. (McIlrath) Johnston, age 82, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell with her family by her side.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at the Grinnell Christian Church. A reception will follow the service in the Family Life Center at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Heart Association, Diabetes Foundation, American Cancer Society, or to Grinnell Christian Church, and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa. Memories and condolences may be shared with Sharon's family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

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Sharon spent her final days in St. Francis Manor where she loved to "work." She was taken care of by so many angels who were so kind and compassionate. A special thank you to Tiffany Criswell and the many, many who cared for her so tenderly and compassionately.

