

Molly L. Saunders ^{64-R} ⁴⁻²⁻²⁰²⁰

Molly L. Saunders, 92, of Grinnell died on March 29, 2020, at Brooklyn Community Estates in Brooklyn.

Due to the state and federal guidelines on gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a private family graveside service and burial will be held on Saturday, April 4, at Westfield Cemetery, southwest of Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson of Grinnell officiating. Pallbearers will be Jim Saunders, Rob Edwards, Tammy Pigot, Chad Wright, and Scott and Terry Saunders.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Westfield Cemetery Association and sent

in c/o Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Molly was born on September 20, 1927, the sixth child of Edward and Ollie (Phipps) Onthank in Grinnell. She grew up on the family farm southwest of Grinnell and attended and graduated the eighth grade from a country school near her home. She then continued her education at Grinnell High School.

On October 3, 1946, she was united in marriage to Richard E. Saunders, at the Methodist parsonage in Grinnell. Molly and Dick were high school sweethearts and had spent 73 years together. The couple farmed together for many years. Having been raised on a farm and Dick in town, she would joke she actually had to teach him how to farm. She drove tractors, milked cows, and cared for their chickens, along with taking care of her house and children. They raised two children together, Jim and Betty Jo, and she saw that they got their education and became successful adults.

Molly took great pride in her four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She enjoyed square dancing, playing cards, cooking and her flowers. She also enjoyed going to the casino. Her life was all about making family and friends feel comfortable. She always welcomed everyone into her home with a smile and something to eat. Her home was warm and open to all who came to her door. Molly was a gentle soul and will be missed by many.

Survivors include her husband, Dick of Grinnell; two children, Jim (Barb) Saunders of Grinnell and Betty (Rob) Edwards of Branson, Missouri; one sister, Grace Davis of Le Grand; four grandchildren, Tammy Pigot, Chad Wright, and Scott and Terry Saunders; and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six sisters, Irene Kester, Mildred Claybrook, Elsie May Van Gorp, Darlene Hamor, Rose Johnson, and Mary Doris; and a great-grandchild, Brant Saunders.

