

Rachel Noel



Rachel Noel, 67, of Traer and formerly of Grinnell, died Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

A memorial gathering was held Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Interment will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to the Rachel Noel Memorial Fund and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Rachel's family online at www.smithfh.com.

Rachel Christine Schwertfeger was born the daughter of Richard and

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Juanita Ewing Schwertfeger on Dec. 20, 1952, in Oskaloosa. She was raised by Victor and Juanita Ewing Vulysteke and the family lived in Grinnell, where she graduated from Grinnell High School with the class of 1971.

Rachel married Mike Norton in 1973 in Killduff, and they had two daughters. Their marriage later ended in divorce. She met David Noel in 1991; they resided together in Belle Plaine, and married Sept. 8, 2006, in Davenport. Rachel worked at Friendship Manor in Grinnell, the Mayflower Community in Grinnell, Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Mariposa Farms in Grinnell, Pilot near Brooklyn and Subway in Belle Plaine.

Rachel's family always came first and foremost, and she loved time spent with them. Her enjoyments included gardening, crafts, traveling with her sisters, going shopping, collecting and repurposing things, watching Chicago Cubs baseball and Iowa Hawkeye football, and having spiritual talks with her family.

Rachel is survived by her daughters Sheri Shepherd of Laurie, Mo., and Lisa Fick of Traer; four grandchildren; sisters Sandra Moranville of Malcom, Vickie Ches of Oskaloosa, and Cindy Murphy of Ottumwa; half-siblings, Jacki Schwertfeger of Anamosa, Sandy Munson of Cedar Rapids, and Richard Schwertfeger of Fairfax; her beloved dog, Mazie; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, David Noel in 2011; one grandchild; and one sister, Trudy Schwertfeger.