

Betty J. Thompson



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Betty J. Thompson, 85, of Grinnell died Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Grinnell Christian Church with John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiating. The family will be present at the church one hour prior to the service. Memorials may be made to the Betty Thompson Memorial Garden at Oakland Acres Golf Course. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She was born April 30, 1921, in Newton to Joe and Grace Conn Arbs. She was raised in Newton and graduated from Newton High School.

She married Clifford A. Thompson on Aug. 18, 1940, in her parents' home in Newton. The couple moved to Grinnell following her husband's service in the United States Navy during World War II. The family resided in Grinnell until the early 1960s when they moved to Oakland Acres Golf Course following its construction by Clifford and Cloyd Thompson. From 1968 to 1977, they lived in Taiwan and, after Clifford's retirement, they lived in Florida. They moved to Gilman in 1995 and to Seeland Park in Grinnell in 2004.

Although she fought illness and pain for over 50 years, her inner strength and spirit were an inspiration to her family and many friends. The spirit made itself apparent in an angelic lyric soprano voice filled with joy which filled every corner it reached.

Survivors include her husband Clifford Thompson of Seeland Park; two daughters, Kathi Sawyer of Ankeny and Diana Pagel of Grinnell; three grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one great great granddaughter and one sister JoAnn. Toedt of Tulsa, Okla. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother Robert Arbs.