

Connie Lou Osborn ^{GH-R} 2-8-2021

Connie L. Osborn, 71, of Grinnell died on February 5, 2021, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Funeral services were scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 8 at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with the Rev. John Epperson, officiating. Pallbearers were her grandchildren. Honorary bearers were Mitzi Blahnik, Carolyn Grosenbach, Kay Haines, Marilyn Miller, Carol Osborn, Karen Parmer, Barb Saunders, and Sharon Van Dyke. Burial will be in Haven Cemetery, Richland Township, in Tama County.



The service was "live-streamed" and viewers could go to the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page beginning at 10:20 a.m.

The public was welcome to attend a visitation with the Osborn family one hour before the service.

Due to COVID-19, face masks and social distancing were required.

Memorial contributions may be designated to Grinnell School District, Dollars for Scholars in memory of Connie Osborn.

Connie was born on May 4, 1949, in Waterloo, the daughter of Raymond Keith and Helen Lucile Parks Walraven. She was raised on a farm in Tama County and later in Sheridan Township where she attended a one-room country school near her home. She was a 1967 graduate of Grinnell High School, where she was active in band and 4-H, and a 1971 graduate of Central College in Pella.

On December 19, 1970, she was united in marriage to Ronald Osborn, at the Sheridan United Methodist Church. The couple farmed in Sheridan Township while raising two children. They were together for 37 years.

Starting in 1978, Connie taught math for three years at Grinnell High School before teaching science at SEMCO in Gilman and later in the BGM School District in Brooklyn. In 1995, she began teaching in the science department at Grinnell High School. She was a devoted school teacher and dedicated to teaching and introducing her students to the wonders of science. She retired from teaching in 2009.

Connie eventually moved from her farm to Grinnell before her retirement; she moved to the Mayflower Community in November of 2018.

For 30-plus years, she fought a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. In 2019, she co-authored a children's book "Jon & Nana Connie Have the Wiggles" to educate children about a family member dealing with the aspects of Parkinson's.

Connie enjoyed the outdoors, shopping, living on a farm, and held a love for animals. Flower gardening, landscaping around her home, and craft working were some of her passions. She was very proud of her dollhouse she made that is now on display at the Mayflower. Her love for her family was very evident and she enjoyed attending her grandchildren's sporting events and other activities. Connie had many dear friends.

Survivors include her two children; Rodrick "Rick" (Tari) Osborn of Bondurant and Rochelle "Chellie" (Mike) Wilkins of Grinnell; and six grandchildren, Abigail, Regan, Lauren and Ethan Osborn and Madeline and A.J. Wilkins. She was preceded in death by her father, Raymond in 1972 and her mother, Helen in 1999.

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