

## Alice DeRooi <sup>GH-R</sup> 3-3-2021

Alice Maire Bolibaugh DeRooi, 89, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 8, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. The family will greet friends from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 9, at Prairie Lakes Church in Grinnell with Pastor Phil Culham (grandson-in-law), Pastor Randy Gaumer (son-in-law), and Pastor John Epperson officiating. A private family interment will follow the service at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be designated to Prairie Lakes Church to benefit children's ministry, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Alice's family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Alice Marie (Bolibaugh) DeRooi was born the daughter of Dean and Ruth (Miller) Bolibaugh on March 21, 1932, on the family farm in Eddyville, Iowa. She was raised in Eddyville and graduated from Eddyville High School, where she excelled at basketball, with the class of 1950.

Alice was united in marriage to John D. DeRooi on September 8, 1951, at the Christian Reformed Church in Eddyville. The couple moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, and Oskaloosa before making their home in Grinnell in 1965. Alice and John's marriage was blessed with four children Debra, Ronald, Connie, and Karen.

Alice was employed by Grinnell College as Assistant Director of the Service Bureau (the editing department for the college) and retired after 21 years in 1990. Alice and John owned and operated Village Decorating for many years and sold the business in 1990. At that time Alice and John retired to Arizona for 10 years, then returning once again to be near their family in Grinnell. Alice and John were members of the United Church of Christ - Congregational, Grinnell Christian Church, and recently attended Prairie Lakes Church in Grinnell. Alice was a longtime member of PEO in Grinnell.

Alice's faith in the Lord and strong love of her family were her foundations. Alice loved to travel with John anywhere. She especially enjoyed the international destinations. As her children attended the Grinnell School District, Alice was an active volunteer for choral, band, and sports boosters. Alice volunteered for Grinnell College and the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Auxiliary for 20+ years. Alice loved to attend civic events, plays, and was an avid GHS Tiger fan. Alice enjoyed watching golf, as well as watching professional football (Green Bay Packers), basketball (Phoenix Suns) and soccer (Manchester City). Alice and John were lifelong members of the Grinnell Country Club where Alice loved to golf and participated on the ladies' league where she was once a league champion. Alice loved all sports, but the greatest love of sports was cheering for her grandchildren at their sporting events.

Alice was simply classy. Her heart of gold, kindness, and generosity were examples of her servant's heart. She hosted two foreign exchange students, Carole Flemming from Great Britain ('72) and Kazuko Ishihara from Japan ('80.) Alice kept in regular touch with them over all these years and they still refer to her as "mom." Alice's strong love and loyalty to her family and friends will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

Alice is survived by her husband of 69 years, John D. DeRooi of Grinnell; four children, Debra (Randy) Gaumer of Canadensis, Pa., Ronald (Jessica) DeRooi of Bettendorf, Iowa, Connie (Brian) Brewer Dolwyddelan, Wales, and Karen (Jason) Dillon of Grinnell; 11 grandchildren (Stacy Leatherman, Amanda Owen, Christopher Gaumer, Jarrod DeRooi, Joe DeRooi, Carolyn Bennie, Alex Bennie, Jenifer Culham, Benjamin Dillon, Wyatt Dillon and Kyle Dillon) and nine great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dean and Ruth Bolibaugh, and her brothers, Richard, Paul, and Donald Bolibaugh.



## Alice DeRooi <sup>GH-R</sup> 8-2-2021

Alice DeRooi, 89, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

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