

CH-R 1-245-2023

Carolyn Irene Gillespie Wells Risch



Carolyn Irene Gillespie Wells Risch, 83, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 at Unity-Point Hospital in Grinnell, surrounded by her children.

A graveside service will be held at Hickory Grove Cemetery, Newburg, in the spring followed by a Celebration of Life.

Carolyn was born Dec. 21, 1939 in Newburg to C. Ithel and Ruth Gillespie. Carolyn was the youngest of their four children. Carolyn was in the last graduating class of Newburg High School in 1958.

Carolyn married Richard A. Wells in 1959 and they had three children together. They later divorced. Carolyn married Donald Risch in 1978 and they were together until his passing in 2002.

Carolyn held many different positions over the course of her life, including homemaker, antique dealer, salesperson, hearing aid technician and jewelry repair person. Carolyn enjoyed traveling, time with family and friends and gardening.

She is survived by her children: Richard R. of Oxford, Iowa, Cynthia Castle of Farmington, Minn., and Brian of Atkins, Iowa; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; her sister Marilyn Rozendaal of Des Moines (who died Jan. 2, 2023) and Eleanor Osland of Grinnell; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Donald, and brother, Howard Gillespie.

Carolyn Risch

A memorial service for Carolyn Irene Gillespie Wells Risch will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory in Newton. The family will greet friends from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home, and again after the service with a lunch at the funeral home.

Carolyn, who was born Dec. 21, 1939, in Newburg, died Jan. 1, 2023, at UnityPoint Hospital in Grinnell. A full obituary appeared in the Jan. 2 & 5 edition of this newspaper.

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