

HR 5/28/07 + 5/31/07

Margie Swisher

Margie Swisher, 76, of Grinnell died Friday, May 25, 2007, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 16, at 10 a.m. in Carman Center at Mayflower. Visitation with family members will be one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and sent in care of Smith Funeral Home.

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She was born Aug. 7, 1930, in Frankfort, Ky. to Ernest and Harriett Harper Reed. She grew up in Cheyenne, Wyo., where her father was an engineer with the Wyoming highway department. She was very involved with the Girl Scouts of America, an activity which lasted past her college years. She attended Grinnell College, graduating in 1953 with a major in mathematics and a minor in physical education. She moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she was an engineering assistant at General Electric, then as district director for Girl Scouts of America.

In 1955 she was married to Donald Swisher, and to this union were born two sons, Gregory and Douglas. The Swishers moved to Colorado where she began a career of teaching mathematics in public middle and high schools. In the early 1970s, she contracted multiple sclerosis which limited her ability to walk, confining her to a wheelchair and forcing her into early retirement in 1981. Following her divorce in 1990, she returned to be near her alma mater, moving into Mayflower and auditing classes at Grinnell College, a familiar sight in the math and science buildings in her motorized scooter. She also was active in the community including as secretary for the Poweshiek Retired Teachers Association, tutoring students in mathematics, singing in the community chorus, membership on Mayflower's movie committee and participating in the Mayflower Bell Choir.

Very organized and involved, throughout each year she kept her eyes open for Christmas and birthday gifts for her children and grandchildren. Her

triumph over her disability was considered an example for all.

She is survived by her sons, Gregory Swisher of Las Gatos, Calif., and Douglas Swisher of Englewood, Colo., and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

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