

Clara M. Halstead



Clara M. Halstead, 87, of Grinnell died June 25, 2011, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Thursday, June 30, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Rev. Jack Mithelman and Rev. Rachel Thorson Mithelman officiating. Music was provided by Lorna Lang and Barbara Chitwood. Casket bearers will be Jeffrey Coyne, Dan Halstead, Daniel Halstead, Kurt Halstead, Mike Halstead and David Tracey. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or Grinnell United Methodist Church.

Clara was born on April 15, 1924, in Poweshiek County, the daughter of Charles and Mary Henry Bryan. She was raised in the Grinnell area and was a 1942 graduate of Grinnell High School.

On December 20, 1947, she was united in marriage with Keith D. Halstead in Grinnell. Following their marriage the couple lived in Iowa City and Des Moines before returning to Grinnell in 1950. They then moved to Minnesota in 1957 and later moved to Missouri. She assisted her husband in the insurance business for 20 years and retired in 1985. After her husband's death in 2000, Clara moved back to Grinnell to live among her family.

Clara was a member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church and a former member of P.E.O. She enjoyed family gatherings and had fond memories of their 50th wedding anniversary in December of 1997 with all their children and in-laws during a special weekend in Kansas City, Mo. She also enjoyed playing bridge and traveling; they visited every state in the U.S. except Alaska and had traveled abroad to Germany.

Survivors include her children, Kayce Halstead of Nacogdoches, Texas, Chris Halstead of Ankeny, and Kurt Halstead of Pacifica, Calif.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Keith; five sisters, Bessie Wright, Ruth Mithelman, Hazel Brim, Margaret Osborn and Sally Todd; and five brothers, Ray, Roy, Alvin, Abe and Bob Bryan.

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Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 30, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home with family present from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or Grinnell United Methodist Church.

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Clara was a member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church and a former member of P.E.O. She enjoyed family gatherings and had fond memories of their 50th wedding anniversary in December of 1997 with all their children and in-laws during a special weekend in Kansas City, Mo. She also enjoyed playing bridge and traveling. They visited every state in the U.S. except Alaska and had traveled abroad to Germany.

Survivors include her children, Kayce (David Tracey) Halstead of Nacogdoches, Texas, Chris (Cheryll) Halstead of Ankeny, and Kurt (Jeffrey Coyne) Halstead of Pacifica, Calif.; four grandchildren, Dylan and Katie Tracey of Nacogdoches and Dan and Mike (Megan) Halstead of Des Moines; and two great-grandchildren, Daniel and Olivia Halstead of Des Moines. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Keith; five sisters, Bessie Wright, Ruth Mithelman, Hazel Brim, Margaret Osborn and Sally Todd; and five brothers, Ray, Roy, Alvin, Abe and Bob Bryan.

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