

6 NR 11-14-2011

Mary Edna Sherman

Mary Edna Sherman, 93, of Grinnell died Nov. 12, 2011, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center.

A memorial service has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at the First Baptist Church. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation with the family present will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday evening at Smith Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell First Baptist Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

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Mary Edna Sherman, 93, of Grinnell died Nov. 12, 2011, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Nov. 17, at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Linda Bergeon, interim pastor of the First Baptist Church and Rev. Christine Tinker, Mayflower Community Chaplain, officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian and vocalists were Milton Severe and Jennifer Boyle. Honorary bearers were Patricia Anderson, Jessica Greenwell, Stephen Sherman, Kalyn Durr, Andrew Sherman, Jennifer Boyle, Katherine Holets, Curtis Sherman and Michael Sherman. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell First Baptist Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

The daughter of Raymond Estel and Lillie Pilgrim, Mary Edna was born on July 5, 1918, in Grinnell. She was educated in the Grinnell Schools and then attended Grinnell College and Iowa State University where she majored in home economics. Following her marriage to LaForest B. Sherman in 1939, they moved to Oelwein, where her husband was employed by Interstate Power and Light Company.

During the war years, they were stationed in Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina, then returned to Iowa and farm life. After raising their four children on the farm, she began a 22-year career with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

Both Mary Edna and "Sherm" were active in the First Baptist Church, where Mary Edna was on numerous boards and committees and where she shared her beautiful voice. She also was a long-time hospital volunteer and Red Cross Board member, and especially enjoyed her membership in Magoun Club and several

6 NR 11-17-2011

bridge groups.

In retirement, the couple enjoyed travel both within the U.S. and abroad. Mary Edna continued singing - and discovered painting - and was happy to be a member of the Seeland Park and Mayflower communities.

Survivors include her four children, LaForest "John" Sherman, III of Grinnell, Jack Sherman of Grinnell, Mary Pat Griffin of Apple Valley, Minn., and Raymond Sherman of Camas, Wash.; nine grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brothers, Jack Pilgrim and Estel Pilgrim; and one granddaughter.