

Kathryne Balster, 86

Jan. 1, 1925 - April 3, 2011

SHELBY — Funeral services for Kathryne Balster age 86, of Clarinda, formerly of Shelby, who entered into peace Sunday, April 3, 2011 at Goldenrod Manor, Clarinda, were held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church in Shelby with Pastor Brian Bontrager officiating. Visitation was held at Ritchie Funeral Home in Clarinda Wednesday, April 6, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and family greeted friends one hour prior to the service at the First Presbyterian Church in Shelby. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Memorials may be given in Kathryne's name. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family on our website at, www.ritchiefuneralhome.com under Obituaries.



Kathryne Renata Selvidge Balster of Shelby and recently of Clarinda was born on January 1, 1925 in Wichita Falls, TX to Loyd and Fannie Davidson Selvidge. She gratefully entered into rest on a beautiful spring morning, Sunday April 3, 2011 at the age of 86. Kay, as she was fondly called, grew up, attended school, graduated and was employed in Wichita Falls, TX. After high school she was employed as a telephone operator. The United States had just become embroiled in World War II at this time and Kay was kept very busy connecting loved ones across the country. It was during this time she met a young Air Force soldier stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX. Kay and a friend double-dated: Kay's date was a tall, handsome blonde Iowa farm boy by the name of Ted Balster. The two made a striking couple and both said they knew right away, "This is the one."

Kay and Ted were married at her parents' home on August 8, 1944. After Ted returned from serving in the Pacific the couple moved to Shelby. Ted resumed farming and Kay began learning how to be a farmer's wife. She unabashedly gave her mother-in-law credit for teaching her how to cook, bake, and garden. A city girl, Kay had preferred shopping and reading books to the more mundane tasks. She never lost her love of reading but it became a luxury in between all the duties of a housewife and mother. Kay and Ted were blessed with five sons: Jim, Steve, Larry, Kennon, and David. So the gardens became larger, the cookies more plentiful as her sons grew. Kay and Ted loved big band music and dancing to it. When the Glenn Miller Festival began in Clarinda they rarely missed attending. They loved parking their RV under the trees at Nodaway Valley Park and taking in all the concerts. The two traveled across the United States as well, visiting children and grandchildren. Kay was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Shelby and also belonged to the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. In 1999, due to health reasons, Kay and Ted moved to Clarinda to the Eiler House and to be closer to their son and daughter-in-law, Kennon and Kate. After Ted's death in 2002, Kay moved to Goldenrod Manor and resided there until her death. Kay was grateful for all the care and kindness shown her at Goldenrod even though she couldn't express her feelings except through a smile. If fortunate enough to have known her, you spent time with a genuine southern lady. Genteel, polite and charming, she will be greatly missed by many.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, brother Harold Selvidge, daughter-in-law Kathleen Nearman Balster, and her

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beloved Ted. She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law: Jim of Atlanta, GA; Steve and Sherry of Cedar Rapids; Larry and Gretchen of Scottsdale, AZ; Kennon and Kate of Blanchard; and David and Barbara of Des Moines. Eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren continue her legacy.

Home

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