



Gretchen Otis, 86, lifelong resident of Boone, Iowa passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at the Eastern Star Masonic Home where she had been a resident since August 2018.

Gretchen entered this world on March 20, 1934 to join her parents, Horace and Amanda (Holt) Caldwell. She was a student at Bryant School and Boone High School, class of 1952. She followed in her mother's footsteps and attended the Iowa Lutheran School of Nursing in Des Moines, graduating in 1955.

From a very early age, her desire was to be a nurse. Her mother and aunt were First World War nurses and her father's sister was a nurse colonel in the Second World War. Her father was a Police Officer in Boone.

Gretchen married twice, both ending in divorce. From her first marriage two children were born: David and Teresa "Terri" Otis.

Gretchen wore many hats in her life: nurse, mother, coordinator, teacher, breadwinner, protector, defender and friend. She had a big heart and wanted the best for everyone; no one was a stranger at her door.

She is survived by her son, David (Sharon) Otis of Ogden, Iowa; Teresa "Terri" Otis of Canyon City, Colorado; Granddaughters: Brandy Storm of Stratford, Iowa; Mindy Bassett of Boone, Iowa and Great Granddaughter Kallie Otis, as well as many extended family members that she welcomed as her own.

She was preceded in death by her Parents, Granddaughter Emily, many Aunts and Uncles and her many beloved pets.

A Celebration of Gretchen's Life will be held Sunday, June 21st at 3:00 P.M. at Schroeder-Stark-Welin Funeral Home, 609 7th Street, Boone, Iowa.

There will be an old fashioned box lunch picnic with Gretchen's standard food fare for all her gatherings at Herman Park Pavilion on South Greene Street following the service.

Memorials in Gretchen's name may be sent to the Boone Area Humane Society.