

MR - FEB. 25, 2004

Virginia L. McWilliams, 77



Virginia Lee McWilliams, 77, of Montezuma, died Friday morning, Feb. 20, 2004, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Her funeral service was Monday, Feb. 23, at the Christian Church, Deep River, with scripture readings by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Hubert Garrell, United States Army (retired) and Virginia's brother of Columbia, S.C., along with remarks by daughter Carolyn Orr, granddaughter Julie Feldman and great-granddaughter Abigail Feldman. Interment was at Golden Rod Cemetery, Deep River. Watts Funeral Home of Montezuma was in charge of the arrangements.

Casket bearers were Kenneth Keller, Joe Keller, Don Ross, Curtis Bates, Bob McWilliams, and Jim Orr. Honorary casket bearer was Lynn Carl.

Virginia Lee McWilliams was born Feb. 17, 1927, at Lumberton, N.C., the daughter of William and Augusta (Branch) Garrell. In 1945, she graduated from Hamlet High School in North Carolina. On Oct. 1, 1945, she was united in marriage to Arthur Dale McWilliams at

Bennettsville, S.C. To this union, three children were born, Carolyn, Teresa and John.

They were engaged in farming in the Deep River area all of their married life. She was a member of the Deep River Christian Church, Mayflower Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Sunshine Sisters and the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed quilting, sewing and gardening, but she especially loved her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was looking forward to the arrival of another new great-grandchild next month. Dale died on May 10, 1999, and about 2-1/2 years ago, she moved to Montezuma.

Virginia is survived by her family, Carolyn and John Orr of Aurora, Ill.; Teresa and Ron Zilli of Lexington, Ky. and John and Shari McWilliams of Montezuma; four grandchildren, Julie Feldman, Shannon Gilbride, Courtney Haidinger and Trent Orr; nine great-grandchildren, Abigail, Maclean, Teresa, Annie Virginia, and Ellise Feldman and Cassidy, Kayla, Claudia, and Drake Gilbride; one brother, Hubert and Jeanne Garrell of Columbia, S.C. and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale; her parents and a sister, Thelma Rickett.