Cornelia Maria (Van Zee) De Vries was born on October 8, 1911, to Leendert and Geertje (Ver Voorn) Van Zee in a farm home west of Sully, Iowa. She was the fifth of six children in the Van Zee family.

She was a lifetime member of the Sully Christian Reformed Church where she was active many years in the Ruth Circle. On August 16, 1939, she married Ralph De Vries at the home of her parents and became a farmer's wife and homemaker. Ralph and Cornelia were blessed with two children, Joann and Leonard. When Leonard moved onto the farm in 1971, Ralph and Cornelia moved into the town of Sully. Shortly after Ralph's death in 2001, Cornelia moved to Hilltop North in Pella, Iowa. She has since lived also in Jefferson Place a few months and was at the Comfort House in Pella at the time of her death on February 19, 2011, at the age of ninety-nine years.

Cornelia was an excellent cook and was famous for her home-made buns and her delicious pies. Visitors were always welcome in her home. She loved poetry and had a huge collection of poems she had clipped from newspapers and magazines. It was a joy to her to work in her very large garden which included all kinds of vegetables as well as flowers. She especially loved her roses and gladioli. Her grandchildren were very special to her and she was special to them. In her later years she did more knitting, turning out numerous afghans, lap robes, baby and doll blankets, stuffed balls, dishcloths, and covered coat hangars. She lived a life of service to others and to her Lord.

She is survived by her children, Mick and Joann Knierim of Byron Center, Michigan and Leonard and Ruth De Vries of Pella, Iowa; her grandchildren, Joel and Carol Knierim, Beth and Paul De Boer, Carol and Michael Hunt, Seth and Sarah Knierim, Ryan De Vries, and Laremy and Rebecca De Vries; and her fifteen great grandchildren, Erin, Kyle, Joshua and Caleb Knierim; Hannah, Annika, Adam, and Lacy De Boer; Joanna, Jaben, Jocelyn, and Josiah Hunt; Selah and Gloria Knierim, and Cornelia (Corrie) Ann De Vries. She is also survived by two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy De Vries and Mrs. Anna Van Zee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ralph of sixty-two years, all of her siblings: Kryn, John, Andrew, and Cornie Van Zee and Marie Veldhuizen, and a grandson, Layton De Vries.

A visitation was held at Garden Chapel Funeral Home in Pella Monday, February 21, 2011. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 22 at the Sully Christian Reformed Church.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”
Psalm 116:15.