

## Darlene Ione Harris Blaess, 94

Darlene Ione Harris Blaess, 94, of Grinnell, passed into eternal rest on Oct. 22, 2013, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 28, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastor John Dodds, Grace United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, officiating. A private burial was held later that day at Linwood Park Cemetery in Boone.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Francis Manor, Grace United Methodist Church or Grinnell Hospice.

Darlene was born March 14, 1919, at the Boone County Hospital in Boone, to John L. Harris and Estella Grace Richardson Harris Reid. She was raised on a farm north of Boone and graduated from Boone High School and then attended a beauty school in Des Moines.

On March 7, 1936, she married Marvin Henry Blaess, in Boone and to this union two children were born, a son, Darrell Lee Blaess and a daughter, Elaine Arlene Blaess Schafbuch.

She held many jobs while living in Boone; the movie theatre as a ticket girl, Spurgeon's, Kueck's Jewelry Store, Minnesota Woolen Company, Singer Sewing Store, Heinrich Company, the hospital as teletype operator and with J.C. Penney's as a teletype operator in the catalog department. Later, while living in Brooklyn, the couple ran a vegetable business.

Darlene's life was her children and grandchildren. She loved having family gatherings. She was a great cook and her family loved her parker house rolls. While her children were in school, they always came home to fresh baked cookies. In the morning, she always had cooked cereal for breakfast. While spending their winters in Florida, she loved to collect shells on the beach. For several years, she latch-hooked many rugs, which she displayed in their home. She loved to dance! She started dancing as a hobby at the age of 10 and eventually taught her husband how to dance. She was a very frugal person, except for where her children were concerned. She would do without, so they could have nice things. Her children could confide in her about anything. Her house was a place where all of her children's friends would hang out. Her grandchildren loved to visit and stay with her.

She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Brooklyn and the United Methodist Women's Group.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin; her daughter, Elaine Schafbuch; her daughter-in-law, Katie Blaess; seven grandchildren, Randy (Vicki) Schafbuch, Rodney (Lori) Schafbuch, Rick (Daneen) Schafbuch, Melanee (Mike) Stanbrough, Mike (Amy) Blaess, Mark Blaess and Chris Blaess; ten great-grandchildren, Jennifer (Andy) Callard, Austin Schafbuch, Lexi Schafbuch, Dylan Schafbuch, Alexis Lynd-Schafbuch, Logan Schafbuch, Nick Stanbrough, Alex Stanbrough, Alison Blaess and Michael Blaess; and one great-great grandson, Huxley James Callard.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Darrell Blaess; a great-grandson, Jackson Blaess; one brother, Robert Harris; and two sisters, Ethel Jacobson and Arlene Alexander.



PCLR 10-30-2013

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Visitation with the family present was held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday at Smith Funeral Home.

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