

## Vema Irene Gilbreath

(Jul. 16, 1920 - Jan. 30, 2016)

Record

2-4-2016

Vema I. (Watts) Gilbreath, 95, of Sloan, died Saturday, Jan. 30, at Pleasant View Care Center in Whiting, Iowa with family by her side.

Memorial services were Monday, Feb. 1, at the Community Church of Christ in Sloan with Dr. Emery Killian officiating. Burial will be at a later date in the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma, Iowa.

Vema Irene Watts was born Jul. 16, 1920 in Barnes City, the daughter of Sherm and Mattie (Varner) Watts. She graduated from Barnes City High School in 1937. She went on to graduate from Pitsy's Beauty School in Waterloo, Iowa.

On Feb. 18, 1940, Vema and Edward Gilbreath eloped to Lancaster, Missouri. Vema worked as a cosmetologist during the first few years of her marriage until Ed returned home from serving in the Navy during World War II. Ed and Vema farmed near Montezuma for several years until they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1964. In 1975, they moved to Sloan. Ed passed away on November 9, 1984.

Vema enjoyed reading, playing cards, attending sporting events, and spending time with family and friends.

She was always willing to help others. She adored her grandson Trevor and was thankful that she was able to see him grow up. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, the Community Church of Christ in Sloan, and a "regular" at the Sloan Senior meals. Her apple pie and cinnamon rolls were always favorites at family gatherings.

She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Rita (Mike) Roarson; a son, Randy Gilbreath; a daughter-in-law, Jo Anne (David) Burke; grandchildren, Trevor Roarson, George (Jessica) Gilbreath, Jennifer Gilbreath, Rex Gilbreath, and Margaret Gilbreath; several great-grandchildren; a sister, Evelyn Duinink; several nieces and nephews; and her extended family, Janice Roarson, Wendy and Joe Kirkendall, Amy and Kyle Brant, and Kelli and Ryan Hesse.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sherm and Mattie Watts; her husband, Ed Gilbreath; a son, Bill Gilbreath; two sisters, Merle Watts and Inez Trubshaw; two brothers, Warren and Autumn Watts; sisters-in-law, Mae Watts and Ruth Watts; brother-in-law, Clarence Duinink; and other nephews, nieces, and in-laws.