Helen Jean Stephens, 98, of Tama, died Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, at Sunny Hill Care Center in Tama.

She will be laid to rest Thursday, Dec. 8, in Santa Rosa Memorial Park in Santa Rosa, Calif. Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home, Tama-Toledo, is handling the arrangements.

Helen was born on Oct. 29, 1918, in Poweshiek County’s Chester Township, the daughter of Morris “Ben” and Lois Ethel Sears Thompson. She graduated from Grinnell High School.

On June 5, 1948, she married Lloyd Stephens in Oakland, Calif. Helen was a W.A.V.E. in the U.S. Navy during World War II which is when she met her husband, who was in the U.S. Marines. She was a clerical worker for an insurance company. When Helen moved back to Iowa, she enjoyed time spent with family with lots of pie and coffee. She loved the time she spent in California and considered that her home.

Survivors include one sister, Doris Flanagan of Tama, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lloyd “Steve” in 1988; one sister, Mary Lee McCurry; and one brother, Laverne Thompson.