

DT Jan 14, 2009

Gladys Vander Molen, 77, Pella

Gladys Vander Molen, the third child of Jacob and Marie (Van Zee) Veldhuizen, was born November 29, 1931. She was born in the house her grandfather built south of Lynnville. At the age of two, her family moved to a farm one mile south of Taintor. She attended



Taintor Independent School, except for 8th grade, that year she attended Peoria Christian. She attended New Sharon High School, graduating with the class of 1949. On September 26, 1952, she married Marvin James Vander Molen, while he was in service. To this union four children were born: Dennis Rene, Gary Lee, Byron Jay and Brenda Lou.

Gladys continued to live with her parents while Marvin served his time in Japan. She worked at the Farmers Coop grocery store during his absence. Then they together moved to California when Marvin was stationed there. After their return to Iowa, Gladys and Marvin took up farming for their career. They first lived south of Sully for four years, then to the home place south of Lynnville from 1960 until 1986. They then semi-retired to Peoria, where they lived for the next twenty years.

Gladys was first diagnosed with breast cancer in March, 1995. On December, 2005 she went to the Hospice of Pella Comfort House and was able to move to Hilltop North in March, 2006. On December 14, 2008, she returned to the Comfort House until January 6, when the Lord took her home.

Gladys made profession of faith on May 14, 1950, at Peoria Christian Reformed Church, where she has remained a faithful member.

Gladys was currently a member of Queen Esther Society and had also been a member of Hilltop Auxiliary and Fair Haven Auxiliary. She did volunteer work and enjoyed her family and friends and was well known for her bountiful garden which was shared abundantly. Working with her flowers and doing yard work were a few of her favorite past times.

Gladys is survived by her four children: Dennis and Linda (Pol) of Clinton, Mississippi, Gary and Barbara (Boomsma) of Madison, Tennessee; Byron and Carla (Van Hal) of Lynnville, Iowa; and Brenda and Jim Sperr of Knoxville, Iowa; nine grandchildren: Corey, Erin and Katie Vander Molen of Clinton, Mississippi; Megan (Vander Molen) and Dave Gillum of Cleveland, Ohio; Brett Vander Molen of Dallas, Texas; Jessica and Janelle Vander Molen of Lynnville, Iowa; and James and Jacob Sperr of Knoxville, Iowa.

Of her original family she leaves: one brother and his wife, Henry and Alma Veldhuizen of Sully; one sister Geraldine Dykhuis of Pella; one sister-in-law Henrietta Veldhuizen of Pella; and one brother-in-law and his wife, Don and Rachel Vander Molen of Peoria.

Preceding Gladys in death was her husband of fifty years, Marvin James on September 3, 2003; a grandson, Ryan Vander Molen on February 25, 1982; her parents, Jacob and Marie (Van Zee) Veldhuizen; a brother, Leonard Veldhuizen; and a brother-in-law, Arnold Dykhuis.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church. Memorials may be given to the Pella Christian High School Endowment Fund or Hospice of Pella. Burial took place at the Peoria Cemetery. The Pella Garden Chapel was in charge of the arrangements.