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3-7-2016

Erma R. DePauw

Erma R. DePauw, 88, of Grinnell, died March 7, 2016, at her home in the Mayflower Community.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 11, at Madison Church of Christ, northwest of Brooklyn with the Rev. John Epperson, Brian Chitwood and Dennis Smith officiating. Organist will be Jan Read. Pallbearers will be her 19 grandchildren and Honorary Bearers will be her 28 great-grandchildren. Burial will be in the Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery, Brooklyn, Iowa, with Edmond Henning playing the bagpipes.



Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present from 5:00 to 7:30 Thursday evening.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Erma DePauw Memorial Fund.

Erma was born July 13, 1927, on her family farm, near Brooklyn, Iowa, the daughter of William A. and Dorothy Miller Smith. She was raised in the Brooklyn area and was a 1944 graduate of Brooklyn High School.

On July 10, 1945, she was united in marriage with Charles DePauw, at her family home. The couple farmed near Brooklyn where she kept busy raising her family and helping with the farm operations. They moved to Grinnell in 1986 and she was employed at Grinnell College dining services until her retirement in 1999. They moved to the Mayflower Community in 2004.

Erma's family was always so very important in her life. She loved serving the Lord in her church at Madison Church of Christ through the missionary groups and Ladies Aid. Her interest in mission work was very special and important to her. She was active teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. She enjoyed tending to her vegetable and flower gardens, sewing and creating things with her hands. She felt it was a joy to fix food for her family.

Survivors include five children, Janet Gorsch of West Burlington, James DePauw of St. Charles, John DePauw of Council Bluffs, Joel DePauw Collinsville, Okiahoma, and Julie Kriegel of Brooklyn; 19 grandchildren, Stephanie, Nathan and Marc Gorsch, Cassidy Fuhrer, Caitlin, Kelsey, Kayla DePauw, Tria Doner, Adam, Jacob, Josh and Luke DePauw, Liberty Druga, Kirk and Kody DePauw, Jason Hettinger and Patrick, Nicholas and Jared Kriegel; and 28 great-grandchildren, Jaren, Emery, Sadie, Kinnick, Macey and Carver Gorsch, Taylor, Noah, Jonah, Caleb, Judah, Emily and Jack DePauw, Joey, Atalie, Isaac and Sophia Druga, Makenna and Asher DePauw, Avery, Ryan and Kensington Hettinger, Alexis, Bryanna and Rachelle Timm, and Scarlett, Jentri and Stetson Kriegel. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles in 2011; her parents; two brothers, Clinton and Warren Smith; one granddaughter, Lucie Ann DePauw; and one great-grandson, Logan Druga.

OBITUARIES

GRINNELL RESIDENT

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