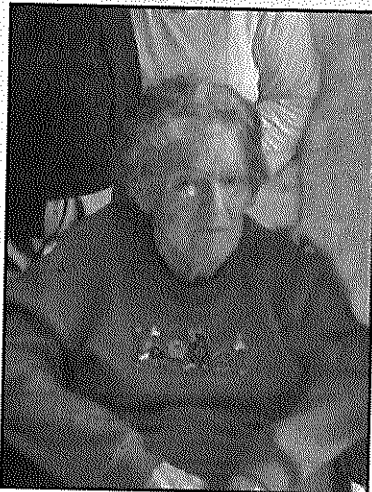


Record 7-28-2016



Velma Irene Sparks

Apr. 3, 1922 - July 23, 2016

Velma Sparks, 94 of Montezuma passed away peacefully Saturday morning, July 23 at the Montezuma Specialty Care. Funeral services will begin at 10:30 am Wednesday, July 27, at the Lynnville Friends Church. Burial will be held in the Woodland Cemetery in Lynnville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lynnville Historical Society or the Montezuma Specialty Care. Holland-Coble Funeral Home of Montezuma is in charge of arrangements.

Velma Irene Sparks, the daughter of Harold and Charlotte (Groves) Ratcliff, was born on April 3, 1922 on the family farm near New Sharon. She graduated from Lynnville High School in 1940 and spoke fondly of playing in the State Basketball Tournament and a class play where she portrayed the "Woman in the Moon". On September 22, 1941, Velma was united in marriage to Floyd K. Sparks in Lancaster, MO. To this union two daughters were born, Shirley and Kay. She and Floyd lived beside and farmed with Lloyd and Alice Sparks for 57 years before health issues which required them to move to Montezuma in 1999. Floyd and Lloyd were twin brothers and Velma and Alice were sisters. While living in Lynnville, they were faithful members of the Lynnville Friends Church, where she taught Sunday School for several years and was a choir member. She loved to sing, even at the nursing home.

Other than her faith, family was very important to her. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and would ride the Amtrak to Illinois to spend time with Shirley and her family. When Kay's children would need a sitter she was always glad to fulfill that role. She followed most of their sporting events and spent many evenings cheering them on. She worked

several years at Friendship Manor in Grinnell and after her shift ended she would spend hours visiting residents. She enjoyed cooking and often would host Sunday dinners after church. She was a caring and nurturing individual who was willing to lend a hand to many. Later in life, she enjoyed watching major league baseball, usually supporting the St. Louis Cardinals, but she had a few favorite players on other teams as well.

She is survived by her daughters, Shirley Streight of Galesburg, Ill. and Kay Latcham and husband Craig of Montezuma; five grandchildren, Jeremy and Brooke Streight of Galesburg, Ill., Krista and Richard Tran of Kankakee, Ill., Corey Latcham and Jen Hawkins of Grinnell; Chad Latcham of Montezuma and Courtney and DJ Sutfin of Ft. Leonardwood, MO; five great grandchildren, Kayla Streight, Zechariah Tran, Brylee Latcham, Declan Sutfin and Walker Sutfin; her siblings, Alice Sparks and Melvin (Marcile) Ratcliff and a brother-in-law, Clair Fenner and a host of nieces, nephews and other friends and relatives.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Floyd, son-in-law, Michael Streight and siblings, Doris Fenner, Neva Klyn, Rayford Ratcliff and Vera Beason.