

Verna Elscott, 82, Sully

Verna Jean Vander Beek was born on November 5, 1925, south of Sully, Iowa. She was the third of four children that were born to Antonie Pieter and Tunnie Goemaat Vander Beek. Verna attended the Sully Elementary School and graduated Valedictorian



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from her high school class at Sully High School. Following her graduation Verna pursued teaching and attended William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa to earn her teaching certificate. She taught in the Dairy Grove and Highland Country Grade Schools and in Killduff, Iowa and later did substitute teaching. On September 19, 1946, she was united in marriage with Glen Elscott, a son of John and Maggie Brand Elscott, at the home of her parents. To this union six children were born: Phyllis Jean, Merlyn Ray, Francene Joy, Jerry Lee, Bryce Eugene and Dean Curtis. Following their marriage Verna and Glen began farming near Taintor, Iowa. In 1952 they moved to the Sully area where they farmed until his health necessitated he retire from farming. Following his retirement in 1981 they moved into Sully in 1984 where they enjoyed gardening and camping together. During all these years Verna was a devoted homemaker. She was also a partner/employee of the Sully Community Locker. Verna was an avid Iowa Hawkeye, Chicago Cubs fan and a Lynnville-Sully High School basketball fan. On November 2, 1992, Glen passed away at the Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa at the age of 70 years. Following his death Verna continued to enjoy reading and appreciating music. Music was an important trait in the Vander Beek family. She had played the trombone, served as a church organist and continued to enjoy singing with her family and in the church choir. She loved her afternoon coffee times and going out to eat with her sisters, sister-in-law and friends, as well as playing cards and games. Since October of 2006, Verna had resided at the Vriendschaap Village in Pella, Iowa, an adjustment she learned to appreciate. On Thursday afternoon, September 4, 2008, she passed away at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa at the age of 82 years, 9 months and 29

days. Those who will cherish her memory are her six children and their spouses, 15 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 step great-grandchild. They and their families are:

Phyllis and John H. De Vries; Patricia and Craig Harrison, Caleb and Lauren. Jeffrey and Kristin De Vries and Madison. Julie De Vries, Merlyn and Paulette (Adams) Elscott. Megan, Joel and Isaac Vos, Josey and Troy Van Weelden, Emily Gibson, Sarah Gibson. Fran and Rich Reel, Scott and Shelby Reel, Logan and Tanner; Kelly, Steve and Ashely Medina. Jerry and Lorna (Renaud) Elscott, Gregory and Erin Elscott, Alexis and Gage, Cassandra and Jeffrey A. Bokhoven, Dakotah and Lindy, Kara and Jeremy Bassett, Alyssa and Brayden, Troy and Aleisha Elscott. Bryce and Sharla (Harthoorn) Elscott, Nicole and Mitch Jarchow, Matthew Elscott. Dean and Donna (Churchill) Elscott, Lisa, Justin and Gavin Kampman, Landon Elscott and Layton Elscott.

Of her original family Verna leaves her older sister, Pearl (Nelson) Terpstra presently of Pella, Iowa; her younger sister, Sylvia and her husband Claris Van Genderen of Sully, Iowa; her sister-in-law, Sara Rose (Abe) Vander Beek of Pella; three sisters-in-law: Jennie (Elscott), Mrs. Harold Geurts of Pella, Ellen (Elscott), Mrs. Francis Van Zante and Grace (Elscott), Mrs. John Renaud both of Pella; and two brothers-in-law: James (Gladys Elscott) Renaud of Sully and Chadwick (Irene Elscott) Ver Ploeg of Pella. Verna was preceded in death by her husband, Glen; her parents, A.P. and Tunnie Vander Beek; her parents-in-law, John and Maggie Elscott; a great-grandson, Ethan De Vries; and her brother, Abe Vander Beek. Verna was a former member of the Daughters of American Revolution. She was a lifelong, faithful member of the First Reformed Church in Sully where she had been a member of the Golden Hour Circle. One of her greatest joys was spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at First Reformed Church in Sully. Interment was in the Sully Cemetery.

Verna preferred memorials be given for the music department of the First-Reformed Church in Sully, Iowa or the American Heart Association.

DT News

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