

Stella Lelas Freeborn

Funeral services were held for Stella Lelas Freeborn, 81, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with Rev. W. Donovan Morrison, Pastor of the Laurel United Methodist Church, officiating. Music was provided by organist Margaret Wheeler. Casket bearers were Keith Bellof, Craig Porter, Dennis Staecker, Calvin Lyle, Mike Schmitz and Tom Staecker. Honorary casket bearers were her grandchildren, Amy Bellof, Lisa Freeborn, Taylor Freeborn, Julie Freeborn, Sabrina Freeborn, Angie Porter, Lindsay Freeborn, Travis Freeborn and Chad Tingwald. Interment was in Rose Hill Memorial Garden, Marshalltown.

Memorial may be directed to the Laurel American Legion Auxiliary and/or the Laurel United Methodist Church.

The daughter of John and Mabel (Schultz) Staecker, Stella was born Nov. 11, 1919 in Malcom. She was raised and attended country schools in the area and graduated from Montezuma High School in 1939. Prior to graduating she worked in the Montezuma School Superintendent's Office.

Stella was married to Cletus William "Bud" Freeborn on Dec. 22, 1943 in Montezuma. During WWII, while her husband served overseas in the U.S. Navy, Stella worked as a civilian employee at Hill Field Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. Following the war, the couple made their home in the Monte-

zuma and Laurel areas, where Stella worked as a cook for the Laurel Schools. They then moved to an acreage near Gilman. Stella spent many years working as a sales secretary for Holland Industries of Gilman. Following her husband's death in 1983, Stella returned to Laurel.

She was an active member of the Laurel United Methodist Church where she attended the church Bible study and Sunday school classes. She also actively served in the Laurel American Legion Auxiliary. She was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, Green Grove and OUR Club. She also served as a board member for the Laurel Leisure Homes.

Surviving her are her three sons, Steven J. Freeborn and wife Karen of West Des Moines; Stanley D. Freeborn and wife Danita of Laurel and Jeffrey L. Freeborn of Gilman; one daughter, Sheila J. Russell and husband Mike of Ankeny; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, Kaylie Porter, Kelsey Tingwald and Emily Bellof; and three sisters, Aylas "Dickie" Staecker of Cedar Rapids, Helen Schmitz of Fairfax and Elaine Zumwalt of Cedar Rapids.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, three sisters, Norma Staecker, Lois Niner and Fern Tish; and three brothers, Johnnie, Clifton and Eugene Staecker.

Stella died Jan. 19, 2001 at the Mercy Medical Center.

Stella Freeborn

Stella Lelas Freeborn, 81, of Laurel died Friday, Jan. 19, at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. W. Donovan Morrison, pastor of the Laurel United Methodist Church, officiating. Organist was Margaret Wheeler.

Casket bearers were Keith Bellof, Calvin Lyle, Craig Porter, Mike Schmitz, Dennis Staecker and Tom Staecker. Honorary bearers were her grandchildren, Amy Bellof; Julie, Lindsay, Lisa, Sabrina, Travis and Taylor Freeborn; Angie Porter; and Chad Tingwald.

Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Garden, Marshalltown.

She was born Nov. 11, 1919, in Malcom to John and Mable Schultz Staecker. She was a 1939 graduate of Montezuma and, prior to graduating, had worked in the school superintendent's office.

She was married to Cletus William "Bud" Freeborn Dec. 22, 1943, in Montezuma. During World War II, while her husband served overseas with the U.S. Navy, she worked as a civilian employee at Hill Field Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. Following the war, the couple lived in the Montezuma and Laurel areas where Mrs. Freeborn worked as a cook with the Laurel schools. They then moved to an acreage near Gilman, and she worked for many years as a sales secretary for Holland Industries of Gilman. She returned to Laurel following her husband's death in 1983.

Mrs. Freeborn was a member of the Laurel United Methodist Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Rebekah Lodge, Green Grove and OUR Club. She also served as a board member for the Laurel Leisure Homes.

Surviving are three sons, Steven of West Des Moines, Stanley of Laurel and Jeffrey of Gilman; one daughter, Sheila Russell of Ankeny; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Aylas "Dickie" Staecker of Cedar Rapids, Helen Schmitz of Fairfax and Elaine Zumwalt of Cedar Rapids.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three sisters, Norma Staecker, Lois Niner and Fern Tish; and three brothers, Johnnie, Clifton and Eugene Staecker. Memorial contributions may be made to the Laurel American Legion Auxiliary or the Laurel United Methodist Church.

MR January 24, 2001