

Irene Blum, 78

July 24, 1932 - June 12, 2011

HARLAN — Irene Blum was born on July 24, 1932 to Francis "Frank" and Cecilia (Kaufmann) Kloewer on the family farm in Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. After her graduation from St. Boniface Catholic School in 1950, she entered nurses training, eventually receiving her Certified Nursing Assistant license.



December 28, 1954, Irene was united in marriage to Vernon Blum at St. Boniface. Six children were born to this union: Debbie, Anita, Sharon, Brenda, Dennis, and Glen. She was a farm wife whose children and siblings were very important to her. She was an avid cross-stitcher and made many things over the last ten to fifteen years. She also loved quilting and could always make things work. She enjoyed playing bingo. She worked at Mickel's restaurant and at the dry cleaners in Harlan. Irene worked in home health care until her retirement in 1998. She became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home but had been at the Dunlap Nursing and Rehab Center when she died on Sunday, June 12, 2011, having attained the age of seventy-eight years, ten months, and nineteen days.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter. She is survived by her children: Debbie and her husband LeRoy Maxwell of Mt. Pleasant, SC, Anita and her husband Dale Michel of Woodbine, Sharon Cherry of Aurora, CO, Brenda and her husband Michael Keegan of Littleton, CO, Dennis Blum and his wife Kristen of Yokohama, Japan, and Glen Blum of Portland, OR; fourteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters: Mildred Blum of Cecil, WI, Richard Kloewer and his wife Alice of Englewood, CO, Marlene Eggerling of Berthoud, CO, Duane Kloewer and his wife Linda of Birmingham, AL, Judith and her husband Carl Peters of Harlan, and Joyce Schaben of Lincoln, NE; other family members and friends.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Serving as casket bearers were Glen Blum, LeRoy Maxwell II, Anna Keegan, Dennis Blum, Stephanie Rhoten, Jennifer Cherry, Ryan Michel, and Sharon Cherry. Interment was held at the Harlan Cemetery.

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