

Shirley Cooper, 75

Feb. 19, 1930 - March 8, 2005

COUNCIL BLUFFS — Shirley Faye Cooper, daughter of Howard and Charlotte (Herman) Holben, was born Feb. 19, 1930 at Magnolia. She attended Magnolia Elementary School and was a member of the graduating class of 1947 from Logan High School. Upon graduation, she attended Immanuel Medical Center Nursing School and obtained her Registered Nurses License.



Oct. 5, 1952, Shirley married Lloyd Cooper at St. John's Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE. To this union, four children were born, Cindi, Bradford, Clarise "Dede," and Randy. After their marriage, they resided in Omaha where Shirley worked at Immanuel Hospital and Children's Hospital. In 1968, they moved to Harlan where Shirley was employed by Dr. Spearing until 1984, when they moved to Council Bluffs. Shirley worked at the McDermott Wing of Mercy Hospital until her retirement in 1996. In 1997, Shirley was commissioned a Stephen's Minister at Timothy Lutheran Church working one-on-one each week with someone in need. In 1998, Lloyd became a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing Home. He died Dec. 28, 1999. After retirement, she founded and was President of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Council Bluffs Chapter. Shirley was instrumental in the annual NAMI Spirituality and Mental Health Conferences. She was also very active in Mercy Center Life Group, Step Out, and Care and Share Support Groups. In 2000 until 2004, she worked for the Presbyterian Outreach and volunteered for Hospice Preferred Choice. Shirley was the recipient of the Mother Mary Vincent McDermott Award and also the 1998 Outstanding Service Award, which is given to a person in the community for human relations and community service. She died March 8, 2005, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital after a battle with cancer at age 75 years and 17 days.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Lloyd, Shirley was preceded in death by her brother, Les. Survivors include her children, Cindi (John) Knudsen of Liberal, KS; Bradford Cooper of Omaha, NE; Clarise "Dede" (Steve) Schnuettgen of Defiance; Randy Cooper (Sheri) of Jackson, TN; six grandchildren, Heidi (Coty) Cooper, Amanda and Luke Knudsen, Sara Schnuettgen, Ben and Max Cooper; one great-grandchild, Hannah Cooper; brother and sisters, Idamae (Dr. Tom) Fake of Denison; Dorothy (Clarence "Sonny") Busch of Persia; Karolyn Weed of Chicago, IL; Jeanie (Marty) Netsch of Bennington, NE; Ronnie Holben of Omaha, NE; Donna (Tom) Emswiler of Logan and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 11, 2005, at Timothy Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, with Rev. Mike Petri officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Clarence Summers, Bob Cooper and Roger Kruger with Coty Cooper, Larry Elias, Scott Vosika, Steve Brandenburg, Jeff Netsch, Keith Winey, Luke Knudsen and Mark Elias casket bearers. Burial was in Westlawn Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha, NE. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.