



Myrtle Gearhart, 94

March 29, 1913 - Dec. 22, 2007

HARLAN — Myrtle Irene Gearhart, daughter of Jacob and Gustava (Strand) Thompson, was born in Irwin, IA on March 29, 1913. She attended school in Irwin and graduated with the class of 1930.

After high school, Myrtle was united in marriage to Orrell Gearhart in Yankton, SD, and to this union, four children were born. A few years after their marriage, the couple then made their home near Harlan. She was quite busy with her children while supporting her husband's longtime service as the Shelby County Sheriff. They were long time members of the United Methodist Church of Harlan where she was quite active in the United Methodist Women throughout her life. She was also very active in the Eastern Star and the Women's Hospital Auxiliary. After the death of her husband on January 16, 1988, Myrtle continued to make her home in Harlan. She then became a resident at Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan August of 2004, and this is where she died on December 22, 2007, having attained the age of ninety-four years, eight months and twenty-three days.



In addition to her parents and husband, Myrtle was preceded in death by four great grandchildren and her brothers and sisters: Alfred, Merlene, Tillie, Gertie, Jenny, Ole, Elmer and James. She is survived by her children: Marilyn Tague of Pismo Beach, CA; Marlene and her husband Lee Klingenberg of Cedar Falls, IA; Larry Gearhart and his companion Barbara Walters of Hot Springs Falls, AR and Cheryl and her husband Keith Svendsen of Loveland, CO; fourteen grandchildren; twenty-eight great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, December 31, 2007 at the United Methodist Church in Harlan, IA. Pastor Dave Swinton officiated the 11:00 AM service with interment at the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan, IA. Serving as casket bearers were: Dean Schaben, Darren Svendsen, Brian Schaben, David Schaben, Brad Svendsen, and Rodney Schaben.

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(712) 755-3135 • (800) 831-6805
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