

Dorothy Gessmann, 72

April 6, 1930 - March 1, 2003

DENISON – Dorothy Lee Gessmann was born on a farm, rural Defiance, April 6, 1930, the daughter of Henry Lee and Nora Maude Cox Ahrenholtz. She was baptized at the Evangelical United Brethren Church at Defiance April 5, 1931. She was raised on the farm at Defiance receiving her education in the Defiance School from which she graduated with the class of 1947.

April 30, 1948, she married William Robert Gessmann at the Evangelical United Brethren Church at Defiance. Their union was blessed with four children, William, Leroy, Larry, Cindy and Lisa. They made their home on a farm at Manilla before moving to Colorado. In 1966 they returned to the farm north of Defiance where they resided until moving to Denison in 1971. Most of Dorothy's adult life was spent as a homemaker caring for her family. Dorothy and Bill spent their retirement years in Denison. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Denison. Dorothy died March 1, 2003, at University Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 72 years, 10 months and 25 days.

Including her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, David and Daniel Ahrenholtz, and a nephew, Keevan Knudsen. She is survived by her husband, Bill Gessmann for 14 hours; four children, William Leroy Gessmann (Ann) of Grimes; Larry Gessmann (Nancy) of Harlan; Cindy Gessmann of Urbandale; and Lisa (Randy) Clausen of Tampa, FL; seven grandchildren, Lauren, Lindsey, Abbey, Jacob, Joshua, Bailey and Sara; four sisters and brothers, Delores (Jack) Perkins of Council Bluffs; Robert Ahrenholtz (Marge) of Harlan; Galen Ahrenholtz (Mary) of Clive; and Beverly (Jerald) Knudsen of Charter Oak; two sisters-in-law, Judie Ahrenholtz and Linda Ahrenholtz, both of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 5, 2003, at the First United Methodist Church in Denison, with the Rev. Chrisa Ferguson and the Rev. Ken Ferguson officiating. Casket bearers were Holly Ahrenholtz, Brian Knudsen, Leann Saylor, Richard Hickman, Carolyn Boeck and Jalene Knudsen. Burial was at the Oakland Cemetery in Denison. The Pfannebecker Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.