

Betty Kern, 80

Feb. 25, 1924 - Feb. 13, 2005

KISSIMMEE, FL — Betty Ruth Poole Kern was born on a farm north of Harlan Feb. 25, 1924, to Harvey and Mabel Hansen Poole. The family moved the next year to the Wright farm, west of Harlan. Betty grew up in Lincoln township and attended Center School #5 for eight years and graduated from Harlan High School in 1941. Betty was a member of the 4-H Club and the Harlan Methodist Church. Following graduation, in 1943, from Northern Iowa University in Cedar Falls she taught third grade in the Shelby Consolidated School. Betty was instrumental in organizing the teaching of the first Special Education Class of Trainable Children. She taught this class for three years in the Harlan Public Schools.



Oct. 1, 1945, she married Orville Raymond Kern, a Shelby native. Betty was an active member of the Methodist Church and was also a member of Eastern Star. The family lived in the Harlan area until 1964 when they moved to Higginsville, MO where they owned and operated a hardware store. In 1970, the family moved to Appleton, WI. Betty continued her education earning two Bachelor of Arts degrees; one in education and the other in social work from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. She worked as a social worker and admissions director at Oakridge Gardens Nursing Center in Menasha, WI until 1989. From there she became a health care worker for the William R. Kellett family until her retirement in 1996. During this time she was an active member at Faith United Methodist Church in Neenah, WI. She also participated in the Ladies Circle, weekly Bible study, and the Seniors of Faith social group. July 15, 2000, Betty moved to Kissimmee, FL, where she joined and became an active member of First United Methodist Church and Good Samaritan Village. She died Feb. 13, 2005, at age 80.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Robert; and her husband, Orville; and his parents. Survivors include her sons, Thomas Robert (Kris) Kern of Two Rivers, WI; Jeffrey Lee (Pam) Kern of Belgrade, MT; and Edmund Martin (Joy) Kern of Intercession City, FL; a brother, Donald (Mary) Poole; grandchildren: Jesse, Caleb, Michelle (Aaron) Gullickson, Jeffrey Ryan (Lindsay), Krista (Mikel) Leiser, David, Nathan, Danielle; great-grandchildren, Ava and Calvry; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Feb. 19, 2005, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery.