

## Ruth Tetzloff, 87

Sept. 5, 1922 - Sept. 8, 2009

**ANN ARBOR, MI** — Ruth Emma Tetzloff passed away on September 8, 2009. She was born Ruth Emma Rickers on September 5, 1922, to William and Emma (Sohl) Rickers, in Westside, where she was also baptized. A few years later, her family moved closer to Harlan, where Ruth attended Harlan High School. While in high school, she participated in the Iowa Normal Training Program, a high school program designed to train new teachers. Upon graduation, she received a Normal Training Certificate along with her diploma. She was hired soon afterward, and taught grades 1 through 8 in the one-room Rabbit Hollow school near Harlan. She was well-loved by her students, some of whom have maintained



life-long contact with her. After three years of teaching, Ruth decided to pursue her dream of a career in nursing, under the Cadet Nurse Corps program of WWII. She completed her nursing degree at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE, which also included a semester at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Following her graduation, she worked for three years at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC, and then took a nursing job in the Twin Cities area in Minnesota, where she met her future husband, Clifford Tetzloff.

Ruth married Clifford Tetzloff September 2, 1950, and followed her husband to Marquette, MI. For the next 3 years, she both practiced and taught nursing at what is now Northern Michigan University. The family then moved to Saline, MI, and in 1960, to Ann Arbor, where Ruth lived for the rest of her life. Ruth's eldest daughter, Kathryn, was born in Marquette, and the other three, Karen, Barbara, and Suzanne, were born in Saline. With four young children, Ruth continued her nursing career, working part time as an on-call and private-duty nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Eventually she accepted the position of Evening House Director for Nursing Services at SJMH, a position she kept until her retirement in 1984. Even today, many people who worked with her or knew her go out of their way to let her family know how fondly she is remembered. Ruth was an avid gardener and was a member of the Ann Arbor Garden Club. She was also a member of the University of Michigan Faculty Women's Club, and the League of Women Voters. Ruth was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. Community service was a high priority for Ruth. Over the years she participated in many roles including Sunday School teacher, Girl Scout leader, school nurse, camp nurse, reading tutor, and senior advocate. Ruth and Cliff traveled extensively and visited many countries around the world.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 49 years, Cliff; and her brother Quentin Rickers. She is survived by her children: Kathryn Parker of Marshall, MI, Karen (Charles) Fenton of Pittsfield Township, MI, Barbara Mueller of Champlin, MN, and Suzanne (Jeffrey) Otterman of Belle Fourche, SD, her aunt Margaret Sohl of Gretna, NE; ten grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other family members, and many friends.

The family received visitors at Muehlig Funeral Chapel in Ann Arbor on Sunday, September 13, 2009 from 4 pm to 7 pm. A memorial service was held on Monday, September 14, 2009 with Pastor Lori Carey officiating the 11am service

at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, MI. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in Ruth's memory to the St. Joseph Mercy Health System Neighborhood Health Clinic in Ann Arbor, The Methodist Hospital Foundation in Omaha, NE, or Trinity Lutheran Church of Ann Arbor, MI.

## Muehlig Funeral Chapel

403 S 4th Ave

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