

**Maxine A.  
Heilesen, 87**

July 25, 1929 - Dec. 26, 2016

**ELK HORN** – Maxine Augusta Heilesen, the daughter of John and Amanda (Maasen) Eggerss, was born on July 25, 1929, in rural Avoca. She attended country school south of Avoca, and graduated from Avoca High School in 1947. After graduation, Maxine worked at the hatchery in Avoca, doing bookwork and helping with the eggs.



Maxine met Gaylord LaVerne Heilesen at a rural youth dance, and the couple was married on March 2, 1952, in Avoca. They moved to the Heilesen family farm east of Kirkman, where Maxine kept a large vegetable garden and did a lot of canning. After a fire on the farm on February 15, 2010, Gaylord and Maxine moved to Irwin, where she remained following Gaylord's death on October 2, 2010. She had recently become a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn.

Maxine was a member of the Irwin Church of Christ in Irwin where she helped in the Women's Groups. She was a member of the White Ribbon Society (WRS) Rural Club. Maxine enjoyed attending quarter horse activities with Gaylord. A former Shelby County Mother of the Year, she also liked to spend time baking and crocheting.

Maxine A. Heilesen died on Monday, December 26, 2016, at the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. She had reached the age of 87 years, five months and one day.

Maxine was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gaylord LaVerne Heilesen; and three brothers, Everett Eggerss, Wilbert Eggerss, and Delbert Eggerss. She is survived by one son, Keith "Statman" Heilesen of Harlan; one daughter, Denise Winchell of Kirkman; four grandchildren, Hannah Winchell of Council Bluffs; Isabelle (Nate Fender) Winchell of Missouri Valley; Jaxon Winchell of Council Bluffs; and Haddie Winchell of Council Bluffs; one great-grandchild, Kienan Fender of Missouri Valley; and other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held on December 30, 2016, at the Irwin Church of Christ in Irwin, with Rev. Ted Sieck officiating. Peggy Ahrenholtz served as the organist. Casket bearers were John Davey, Glenn Davey, Gene Davey, Robert Davey, and Douglas Heilesen. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin.

Memorials may be made to the Kirkman Volunteer Fire Department. The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be left online at [www.burmeister-johannsen.com](http://www.burmeister-johannsen.com).

**BURMEISTER~  
JOHANNSEN**

FUNERAL HOME

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