

## Irma Martin, 83

*Dec. 17, 1922 - March 25, 2006*

**HARLAN** — Irma Pauline Martin, daughter of Roy Evan and Meta Margaret (Fredrehsen) Burkey, was born Dec. 17, 1922, in Walnut. She was confirmed March 21, 1937, at the Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Walnut. She attended school at Walnut and graduated with the class of 1940. After high school, she attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE for two semesters. After her schooling, she returned to Walnut where she began her teaching career at a local country school. She then moved for a short while to California where she worked as a dental assistant in San Francisco.



She returned to Iowa and on April 25, 1954, Irma married Donald Dean Martin at the Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Walnut. In 1958, they made their home in Harlan where they joined the Immanuel Lutheran Church. After moving to Harlan, she worked out of her home as a seamstress and doing laundry and ironing for customers. Later she returned to teaching and was a substitute teacher in the Harlan Community School District. She then taught third grade at St. Michael's Catholic School in Harlan where she remained for eight years. After teaching, she worked at Marcia's Fabric Shop and the Sears Retail Store in Harlan until her retirement in 1989. Even after retirement, she kept herself busy volunteering for the American Red Cross bloodmobiles in Harlan for several years. In 1987, Irma was confirmed at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. She served the church through various committee including arranging for the ushers, greeters and acolytes for church services. She volunteered countless hours as the funeral liaison for the United Methodist Church where she helped plan numerous funeral lunches. She also was a member of the Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary where she volunteered working with patient services, swing bed, mail delivery, pediatrics and the gift shop and served on the board. She was in charge of the Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary blood analysis screening for 15 years and put in countless volunteer hours making it run smoothly. She died March 25, 2006, at Myrtue Medical Hospital at age 83 years, three months and eight days.

In addition to her parents, Irma was preceded in death by her husband Aug. 3, 1987, and her sister, Ethel Wojtkiewicz. She is survived by her children, Craig Martin (Kim) of Cedar Rapids and Catherine "Cathie" (Joseph) Sondag of Harlan; her grandchildren, Brandon and Nicholas Martin, both of Tucson, AZ; Todd Sondag of Minneapolis, MN; and Andrew Sondag of Omaha, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 27, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church with Pastor Orris Drake and Rev. David Swinton officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Todd Sondag, Rick Wojtkiewicz, Doug Leach, Andy Sondag, Kelly Fairchild, and Jim Swensen casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.