

Juanita McDermott, 94

Aug. 8, 1921 - Jan. 30, 2016

WALNUT — Alice Juanita McDermott was born on August 8, 1921 to Carl and Lola (Anderson) Jensen in Monroe Township near Walnut. She was baptized in the Presbyterian Church, attended school in Avoca, and graduated with the Class of 1938.

July 7, 1941, Juanita was united in marriage to Clarence McDermott in Omaha, NE. They became parents to six children: Larry, Don, David, Dennis, Dallas, and Rhonda. While Clarence served in the United States Army during World War II, Juanita accompanied him while he was stationed stateside and held down the home front while he was deployed overseas. The family moved to Harlan in 1949 and farmed in Shelby County from 1954 to 1983.

Juanita was a stay-at-home mom, having children at home for forty-one years. She was a 4-H leader, 4-H county committee member, and band parent. After the children started leaving home, she became involved in outside activities. She was an active member of the Congregational United Church in Harlan where she served as a Deaconess several different times and taught Sunday School and Bible School. She held all offices of the Priscilla Society, was chairman of the Gifts and Memorial Board, and served on the board for Concerned, Inc.

She was also in the Farm Bureau Women's group, served as Porkette President, was chairman of the rural Community Chest drive, served as Shelby County Fair Superintendent and was honored as Harlan Mother of the Year in 1984. Juanita died on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of ninety-four years, five months, and twenty-two days.

Juanita was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Clarence, son Don, three brothers: Carl, Max, and Gaylord; and one sister, Pauline Harshaw. She is survived by her children: Larry McDermott and his wife Connie of Harlan, David McDermott and his wife Janet of Story City, Dennis McDermott and his wife Julianne of Milwaukie, OR, Dallas McDermott and his wife Lois of Harlan, and Rhonda and her husband Tim Edgecomb of Harlan; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild; brother Merritt Jensen of Corvallis, OR; three sisters-in-law: Shirley McDermott of Atlantic, Kay McDermott of Sun City, AZ, and Jo McDermott of Orange County, CA; other family members and friends.

Pastor Donna Ewert officiated the 2:00 p.m. funeral service on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at the Congregational United Church in Harlan. Music was provided by Janet Leaders and Jim Thompson. Honorary casket bearers were Tonya Menuey, Julie Van Hove, Erin Gaul, Regina McDermott, Sharlonda Roorda, Ann Marie McDermott, and Alisha Edgecomb. Serving as casket bearers were Kent McDermott, Loren McDermott, Chad McDermott, Ryan McDermott, Matt McDermott, Steven McDermott, Jay McDermott, and Joshua Edgecomb. Burial was held in the Harlan Cemetery.



Pauley Jones
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

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