

## Edna Nielsen, 85

Jan. 18, 1925 - March 8, 2010

**WALNUT** — Edna June (Pash) Nielsen had the combination of strength and sensibility. As a child, playful roughhousing with three brothers on the family farm provided her with mental and physical toughness. As a wife, mother and teacher she instilled the virtues of faith, discipline, hard work and generosity. Edna died peacefully in the presence of her family of complications from cancer Monday, March 8, 2010 in Council Bluffs. She was 85.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut.

Edna was born in Minden, to Orville and Elsie (Blumer) Pash on January 18, 1925. She attended Avoca schools, graduating in 1942. Her education continued with Normal School where she obtained her teaching certificate. Edna spent the next year in a one-room country school in Avoca. There she taught every subject to every child in kindergarten through junior high. After her stint in Avoca, Edna taught school in Treynor for three years.

While attending a chivaree for a mutual friend, Edna met Victor Nielsen. He asked her to go roller skating with him, but she said no. She already had a date. He ignored the rebuff, tried again, and after a three-year engagement the pair married January 25, 1946 in Avoca. They lived on a farm in Treynor, then for 10 years in Macedonia, before making Walnut their home in 1958. There she was active with the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut, the Thursday Federated Club and the American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. Her hobbies included dancing every weekend with her husband of 64 years, playing cards with friends, gardening, and wrestling on the floor with her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. In addition to selling life insurance for a short time, Edna became Walnut's skilled seamstress. She made and mended clothing at a time when if a zipper broke, you didn't buy new clothing, you got a new zipper. Edna also stitched together the generations, tailoring wedding dresses for her daughters and granddaughters.

Edna is preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Elsie Pash; and her brothers Francis, Lester and Donald Pash. In addition to her husband, Victor, she is survived by daughters, Rogene and husband Daniel Terrian of Ottumwa; Vicki and husband Roger Aughe of Council Bluffs; Doreen Dee and husband Dennis Taylor of Waxahachie, TX; sons, Bernie and wife Cindy Nielsen of Trinity, FL; and Jay and wife Karen Nielsen of Allison; 16 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Memorials can be made in lieu of flowers.

