

Astrid Willadsen, 93**Nov. 17, 1914 - March 1, 2008**

IRWIN—Astrid Willadsen, daughter of Andreas and Nikoline (Nielsen) Villadsen, was born on November 17, 1914, in Guldager, Denmark. She attended school in Bastholm, Denmark and was baptized and confirmed in Vrejlev, Denmark.

September 17, 1935, Astrid was united in marriage to Chris Willadsen in Vrejlev, Denmark. Seven children were born to this union: Ella, Lars, Hans, Alice, Karen, John and Carl. During World War II, Chris and Astrid were active in the Danish Underground Resistance Movement, primarily blowing up German troop trains, as well as helping hide Jews and downed pilots until they could be moved to safety. Astrid and her family immigrated to the United States in 1947 to Irwin, IA, where she was a homemaker. Astrid also worked as a nurse's aide at Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan for seventeen years before her retirement in 1985. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin since 1947. Astrid died on Saturday, March 1, 2008, at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan having attained the age of ninety-three years, three months, and twelve days.

Astrid is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Chris, her daughters: Ella and Alice, and her grandchildren: Chris and his wife Heike Willadsen and Susan Petersen Markham. She is survived by her children: Lars Willadsen and his wife Kay of Van Buren, AR; Hans Willadsen and his wife Bernice of Ocheyedan, IA; Karen and her husband DeLane Wright of West Liberty, IA; John Willadsen of Sedalia, MO; and Carl Willadsen and his wife Jonna of Sedalia, MO; one son-in-law Don Petersen of Smithville, MO; twenty-two grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren, and five great great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, with Pastor Ron Rasmussen leading the 11:00 AM service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, IA. Honorary casket bearers were Don Ferry, Richard Musfeldt, Ken Pleake, Don Willadsen, Bill McMahon, Henry Olson, and Keith Jensen. Casket bearers were Dan Willadsen, Richard Willadsen, Dean Willadsen, Tony Wright, Aaron Willadsen, and Kevin Wright. Interment was held at the Danway Cemetery in rural Irwin, IA.



*Pauley
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