

Dorothy Volkens, 85

Dec. 3, 1930 - April 10, 2016

SHELBY — Dorothy Marie Lewis Volkens was born to Ted and Helen (Schmoldt) Lewis on December 3, 1930, in Columbus Junction. She graduated from Columbus Junction High School with the Class of 1948. Following high school graduation, Dorothy attended Business School in Omaha, NE, and then worked for Bell Telephone.

While attending a Shelby Cardinal Football game with a friend, Dorothy met Donald Edward Volkens. They were married on January 22, 1950, in the Methodist Church in Columbus Junction. They enjoyed a honeymoon to the southwest part of the U.S. especially visiting the Petrified Forest and Mexico. Dorothy and Don made their first home in a two room apartment on the corner of Western Avenue and Center Street in Shelby. They moved to their own home on Western Avenue in December 1950. She and Don were blessed with three children, Jean, David, and Lynn. They resided there until moving onto the family farm in 1977. The big square farmhouse remained Dorothy's home following Donald's death in 1997 until she relocated first to Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, in 2015, and then later that same year to Rolling Green Village in Nevada. Living in Nevada got her closer to family and she dearly loved the increased visits from her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dorothy was an active member of the Shelby Methodist Church for 65 years. She was a long-time member of the United Methodist Women, supporting their projects whenever she could. For 34 years, from 1962-96, Dorothy worked as a secretary for the Shelby schools. She was a member and rarely missed a meeting of the Shelby Study Club. Dorothy enjoyed gardening and her yard. Dorothy was an avid reader and took a great interest in her family history. She visited family members from Maine to Utah while doing her research. She adjusted to technology changes and used her computer to create a newsletter for friends for a brief time. She continued to stay in contact with family and friends using email from her computer and then on her iPad. Dorothy died on Sunday, April 10, 2016, at Rolling Green Village in Nevada, at the age of 85 years, 4 months, and 7 days.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, husband Donald, daughter Lynn, two sisters, and a stepfather. She is survived by her daughter Jean and her husband Glee Goodner of Cambridge; son David and his wife Sharon Volkens of Williamsburg; six grandchildren: Andy and Cindy Goodner of Decorah, Ben Goodner of State Center, Michael and Sarah Volkens of Waukee, Evan Volkens of Ames, Calvin and Monica Berg of Wellington, CO, and Emma Berg of Black Hawk, CO; six great-grandchildren; and other family members and friends.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the United Methodist Church in Shelby, with Pastor Nathan Tabelisma officiating. Rebecca Tabelisma served as the organist. Casket bearers were Calvin Berg, Emma Berg, Andy Goodner, Evan Volkens, Michael Volkens, and Benjamin Goodner. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery, Shelby. Donations honoring Dorothy's life may be made to the general fund of the United Methodist Church in Shelby. Condolences may be left online at www.burmeisterjohannsen.com.

**BURMEISTER~
JOHANNSEN**
FUNERAL HOME

1401 Garfield Ave., Harlan
Shelby

755-3177 • 877-755-3177

www.burmeisterjohannsen.com