

## Geraldine Faye Stahlecker 1928-2013

Geraldine Faye Stahlecker was born April 7, 1928 at Ballagh, Nebraska to Hamilton Boyd and Ora Belle (Knatser) Ballagh. She attended country school at Ballagh, Nebraska for her early education and graduated from Burwell High School in 1945. After graduation she taught country school in Holt county for one year and in Valley county for one year.

Geraldine married Gilbert Earl Stahlecker on May 24, 1947 in Burwell, Nebraska. They lived in Burwell and then moved to California for a short time, before moving back to Burwell. They later moved to Washington and again returned to Burwell. Geraldine was a devoted homemaker, wife and mother. She later worked for Bristol Jewelry in the mid 1970's and then for Field Jewelry until it closed. Geraldine also provided many years of patient and loving care for Gilbert during his time of illness until his death on October 14, 2010.

Geraldine was a unique and special person to those who knew her. She was an American Legion Auxiliary member, an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church for nearly 63 years and served on the Banner Willow Springs Cemetery board for several years. She loved her family and friends and enjoyed playing cards and games, quilting for her family, flowers, gardening, birds, wildlife, and was a great cook. Family and friends will remember sitting around her kitchen table or congregating in the yard during the summertime, always enjoying the home cooked meals and lots of fun and laughter.

Geraldine Faye Stahlecker died on March 24, 2013 at the age of 84 at the Heartland Park Assisted Living in Seward, Nebraska.

Geraldine is survived by her 4 children: Gail and Judi Stahlecker of Littleton, Colorado; Lonny and Kathy Stahlecker of Benkelman, Nebraska; Larry and Karen Stahlecker of Lynden, Washington and Linda and Robert Tempel of Seward, Nebraska; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 4 sister-in-laws: Francis Ballagh, Martha Stahlecker, Darlene Stahlecker, Tudy Stahlecker; 1 brother-in-law, Carroll Wiegand; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her parents; husband; four sisters, Leila as an infant, Dorothy, Beverly, Betty and two brothers, James "Jimmy" and Harold "Hap" and daughter-in-law Karen Stahlecker.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 29, 2013 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Matthew Berndt will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 7 p.m. Thursday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Burwell Community Fund or St. John's Lutheran Church.