

Gladys Nielsen, 97

Aug. 30, 1913 - Feb. 1, 2011

LONGMONT, CO — Gladys Karen Nielsen, the daughter of Chris and Marie (Esbeck) Larsen, was born August 30, 1913 on her parents' farm south of Elk Horn, and died February 1, 2001 at Life Care of Longmont, CO at the age of 97 years, 6 months and 29 days. She was baptized at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and confirmed at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon. She attended rural school and helped on the family farm.

February 9, 1947, Gladys was united in marriage to Harley R. Nielsen at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic. Two children were born to this union. Gladys was a farm wife



helping with the farming near Atlantic and Kirkman until 1964 when they moved to Harlan and purchased the Harlan Flower Shop. She continued with this until she and Harley moved to Colorado Springs, CO in 1973. She worked at greenhouses in Colorado Springs continuing her love of flowers. She retired shortly after Harley's death in 1991, enjoying her family and her fellowship at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. She moved to Longmont, CO, to be near her daughter and resided in Life Care of Longmont Care Center until her death. The church was important to her. Harley and Gladys were very involved with the groundbreaking of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan and remained members until their move to Colorado.

Preceding Gladys in death were her husband, Harley; her parents; her sisters: Leota Fritz (Dale); Elaine Erickson (Alfred); Vanda Jensen (Richard); Irene Larsen; her brothers: Russell Larsen (Betty); Lyle Larsen; her sisters-in-law, Ilene Nease (Bill); and Irene Fries (Ronald); and her brother-in-law, Jack Twist; and two nephews and one niece. Survivors include her daughter, Cindy Smith (Bob) of Johnstown, CO, and her son, Phil Nielsen (Nancy) of Kirkman. She is further survived by her grandchildren; Chris Smith (Wendy) of Longmont, CO; Jason Nielsen of Westphalia; Jennifer Daggett (Wade) of Blair, NE; Rachel Smith of Firestone, CO; Jeremy Nielsen (Kylie) of Irwin; Joshua Nielsen of Harlan; Matt Swenson (Trisha) of Irwin; and Amanda McCarthy of Walnut. She is further survived by 12 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Audrey Twist of Exira; her sister-in-law, Erma Larsen of Exira; brother-in-law, Marvin Nielsen (Betty) of Tucson, AZ; many nieces and nephews, other relatives and numerous friends both in Iowa and Colorado.

Inurnment will be at the Rose Hill Cemetery near Kirkman in the spring. A celebration of Harley's and Gladys' lives will be held at that time.