

Valeria K. Thrasher, 92**Feb. 22, 1922 - Dec. 18, 2014****EARLING** - Valeria "Val" K.

Thrasher, age 92, passed away peacefully in Omaha on December 18, 2014 after a brief battle with cancer. Born Valeria Bentler on 2-22-22 in Ft. Madison, and grew up in Houghton. She graduated from St. John's High School in Houghton and worked for the Shaffer Pen Company before starting her family and being a homemaker.

Valeria married Merle J. Thrasher on May 5, 1943 in Colorado where he was stationed during WWII. After Merle's discharge from the army, they started a business in Houghton residing there and enjoying the closeness of a large extended family and many friends. Another business opportunity took them to Earling, where she resided for the past 48 years. Earling became her home, making new friends and enjoying the community.

She loved reading and continued to do so through books-on-tape when her vision became very limited. A favorite hobby was fishing, spending summers in Canada after Merle retired. Her family and friends spent many hours at her kitchen table enjoying wonderful food, playing cards and great conversation. Val was very skilled at crocheting leaving each child and grandchild a beautiful afghan as a lasting memento of her love. She was a longtime member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Earling and of the Altar and Rosary Society.

In addition to her parents, William and Elizabeth (Foecke) Bentler, Valeria was preceded in death by her husband, Merle Thrasher; her brothers: Leonard, Irvin, LeRoy and Kevin "Bud" Bentler and sisters: Bernice Becker, Evelyn Sanders and Irene (Schulte) Bixenman. She is survived by her children: Tom Thrasher and his wife Janet; Ron Thrasher and his wife Cyg; Randy Thrasher; and Greg Thrasher and his wife Nancy all of Omaha, NE and Jan and her husband Mike Hays of Wall Lake; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Joann Troja Bentler and brother-in-law Bob Bixenman both of Ft. Madison; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Rev. Urey Mark celebrated the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, December 22, 2014 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Tyler Gubbels provided the music along with vocalists Brady Hays and Michael Sturm. Serving as casket bearers were Daniel Thrasher, Kevin Thrasher, David Thrasher, Brady, Hays, Bill Schulte, and Jerry Sanders. Burial was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling.



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