

Darlene June Stevens Brown ^{64-R} 6-16-2013

Darlene June Stevens Brown passed away peacefully in her home on Monday, May 6, 2013, at the age of 83. She was born on February 26, 1930 to Charles and Blanche Stevens. She was one of four children raised in rural Brooklyn, and she graduated from Brooklyn High School with the class of 1947. Prior to getting married and raising her family, Darlene worked as an operator for the telephone company in Grinnell.

She married Earl Brown (Maryville, Missouri) in August of 1952, and together they had six children. The family resided in Grinnell, and Darlene was a stay-at-home mom until her children got older. She then worked for the school district in Grinnell as a baker and a cook. Many school children admired Darlene for her friendly and caring manner, and delicious school lunches. During her lifetime, she was active in the Poweshiek County Association for Retarded Citizens and Audubon Society, and also became a Master Gardener. She was known as the lady with the yard full of beautiful flowers on the corner of 4th and Penrose. After retiring from working in school kitchens, Darlene did volunteer work for the Grinnell Regional Medical Center. Of all the jobs she performed in her lifetime, the one most important to her and the one she did the best was being a MOM. She modeled a good work ethic and gave unconditional love to her children. She is now dearly missed as part of their lives.

Darlene was preceded in death by her daughter, Catherine Brown; both parents; and her younger brother, Charles Stevens. She is survived by her older brother, Robert Stevens (Marshalltown), and her younger brother, John Stevens (Grinnell). She is also survived by five of her children: Laura Brown (North Liberty), Patricia (Jerry) Conkel (Urbandale), Beverly Brown (Grinnell), Steven Brown (Des Moines), and Timothy (Donnie) Brown (Urbandale), along with seven grandchildren: Marc, Rebecca, Colby, Denton, Jennifer, Dustie, and Bodie.

Private graveside services will be held at a later time in Ladora at the Ohio Cemetary. Family will be available for visitation on Saturday, May 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Darlene's home.

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