

Carol Christensen, 78

March 5, 1935 - April 11, 2013

HARLAN — Carol Joyce Christensen, daughter of Harold and Veta (Plumb) Havick, was born on the Plumb family farm East of Tennant on March 5, 1935. In 1946 she moved with her family to another farm to be closer to M16 (the Tennant Road). She attended Tennant Consolidated School in Tennant graduating with the class of 1953. As a child growing up, she helped with chores on the farm mowing the lawn, cooking supper, and every weekend helped clean the house. After high school, Carol knew she wanted to teach school and enrolled in Iowa State University in Ames where she majored in Home Economics Education with minors in Physical and Social Studies. During the summers, she worked in the office at Squealer Feed and in the kitchen of Myrtue Memorial Hospital both in Harlan. Carol had become locked in the cooler at the hospital with one of her future husband's friends. That occasion led to a date that night with Jack Christensen to go to a show in Denison. They continued dating and became engaged in December of 1955. He had her high school class ring, so when he bought the engagement ring he had the right size. She graduated from Iowa State in May of 1957 with a degree in Home Economics.

Carol and Jack Christensen were united in marriage on Saturday July 6, 1957 at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Carol accepted a teaching position in Carson at the high school and Jack worked in Council Bluffs. They lived in a rented house in Carson. When Jack decided to farm, Carol resigned her position in Carson and accepted a position to teach in Irwin in 1958, and the couple moved to a farm near Tennant. Carol had to resign from teaching in February of 1960 because she was pregnant with their first of four children. In 1963, they moved to a farm north of Corley where they lived for eleven years. After three years of farming on the Ted Allen farm, they moved to her parents family farm near Tennant. In 1968, Carol accepted a position in the Harlan Community Schools teaching home economics and eventually the class name was changed to family consumer science. She taught life skills, child development and family life for thirty-four years. In 2010, Carol was honored as Mother of the Year. Carol's grandmother, mother, relatives and neighbors served as role models as she raised her family. Holidays, family events, school and church activities were most important in her life. She was an avid reader and had an extensive collection of cook books. She has been an active member of the First United Methodist Church for many years where she volunteered on numerous committees and served as chairman of her circle group and on the kitchen committee for funerals. She was also a member of Alpha Delphians and the Harlan Cemetery Foundation. As a cancer survivor she participated in the survivors lap at the Shelby County Relay for Life. Carol died on April 11, 2013 at the Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan having attained the age of seventy-eight years, one month and six days.

In addition to her parents Carol was preceded in death by her son Kent, her husband Jack F. Christensen and her sister Leila Havick. Survivors include her children, Ann and her husband Dave Pickrel of Hickman, NE; Jay and his wife Suzy Christensen of Harlan, and Jill Christensen and her friend Harry Garcia, of Queens, NY; her grandchildren, Nicholas, Adam and his wife Erin, Rees, Sadie and Cass Christensen and Rachel and Jacob Pickrel; four step grandchildren, Angie Freund and her husband Travis, Cary Pickrel and his wife Sara as well as Justin and Olivia Garcia; five step great grandchildren, C.J. and Rhiannon Pickrel, Skylar King and Brooklyn and Jackson Freund; one step great-great grandson, Andrew Pickrel; her sisters Jeanet Lebssock of Sterling, CO and Dixie and her husband Terry Boeck of Fremont, NE; her brother Alfred Havick, DDS of Marshalltown; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Pastor Darwin Moore officiated the 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Music was provided by musicians Suzy Christensen, Sharon Davidson, Craig Nance, and Harry Garcia and



vocalists Rachel Pickrel, Jacob Pickrel, and Lee Nelson. Honorary casket bearers were Norman Mathiasen, Glenn French, Ray Buman, Gaige Lytle, Jerry Larson, Ben Plumb, Mark Lytle, and Richard Klitgaard. Serving as casket bearers were A. J. Christensen, Cass Christensen, Rees Christensen, Nicholas Christensen, Justin Garcia, Jacob Pickrel, Sadie Christensen, and Rachel Pickrel. A private inurnment was held at the Harlan Cemetery.

 *Pauley Jones*

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