

## Vernal Henriksen, 104

March 7, 1912 - July 6, 2016

**HARLAN** — Vernal Dorthea Henriksen, daughter of Hans Peter and Mary (Petersen) Christensen, was born on March 7, 1912, in Audubon County. She attended school in the Poplar area, and completed the eighth grade.

September 2, 1940, Vernal was united in marriage to Harold Herman Henriksen. They farmed on the Henriksen family farm until Harold was forced to retire because of health problems. Harold and Vernal loved to travel and attend sports of all kinds. After Harold's death on March 18, 1980, in Omaha, NE, Vernal continued to travel with friends.

Vernal loved to bake and entertain, and was a very active and faithful member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. As she got older, her sports were mainly watching the Cubs and the Cardinals. She loved to play cards and especially liked to win; she continued to play until shortly before her death.

Vernal was blessed to live long enough to see her two grandsons grow up and to welcome two sweet great-grandchildren to the family. At age 97, Vernal decided it was time to move to the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, where she lived until her death. Vernal D. Henriksen died on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan. She had reached the age of 104 years, 3 months, and 29 days.

Vernal was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harold Henriksen; and two sisters, Leona Johnson and Alma Mathiasen. She is survived by one daughter, Glenna (Terry) Pullen of Macedonia; two grandsons, Drew (Katie) Pullen of Elkhorn, NE, and Mitchell Pullen of Council Bluffs; two great-grandchildren, Claire Pullen and Dawson Pullen, both of Elkhorn, NE; a special family friend, Dale (Arlie) Ahrenholtz of Chicago, IL; nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, July 9, 2016, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastor Phillip Nielsen officiating. Heidi Thies served as the pianist, and Diane Kastens was the soloist. Casket bearers were Drew Pullen, Laura Johnson, Mitchell Pullen, Kirk Jacobsen, Dale Ahrenholtz, Elizabeth Luoma, and Katherine Evers. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery, Harlan. Condolences may be left online at [www.burmeisterjohannsen.com](http://www.burmeisterjohannsen.com).



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1401 Garfield Ave., Harlan  
Shelby

755-3177 • 877-755-3177

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