

Karen Kutnink, 68

Aug. 15, 1938 - Nov. 23, 2006

IRWIN—Karen Dee Kutnink, daughter of Eldon Bernard and Elna Marie (Hartman) Westenburg, was born Aug. 15, 1938, in Carson. She attended school at Griswold Elementary and graduated from Griswold High School with the class of 1956.

Karen married Donald Dean Kutnink at the Griswold Methodist Church June 3, 1956. Four children were born to this union, Donald Kenton, Sunny Jo, Robert Dean and John William. After their marriage, they lived in Council Bluffs and Griswold, until March of 1957, then moved to a farm near Walnut and were members of the Walnut Presbyterian Church. In 1963, they made their home on a farm north of Irwin and were members of the Irwin United Methodist Church. In 1969, they had a farm sale and later that year moved into Irwin. Over the years, she worked several part-time jobs so she could stay close to home and her children. She was a field foreman for a large detassling crew for seven years. She was also a bus driver, worked at the locker, waitressed, bartended, cooked and worked at the elevator. She even went on the road with Don with Western Engineering working as a flagger, weighing and driving trucks and keeping up the travel trailer they lived in. In 1989, she went to work with Don at Omni Engineering as the field office secretary. She quit working in 1995 after being diagnosed with COPD. She died at the Manning Regional Healthcare Center Nov. 23, 2006, at age 68 years, three months and eight days.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers and sister: Harlan Westenburg and his wife, Carrie; Marlin Westenburg and Joyce Higgins and her husband, Stanley; and her daughter-in-law, Vanessa Kutnink. She is survived by her husband, Donald Kutnink of Irwin; her children, Kent Kutnink (Terri) of Farmington, MN; Sunny Jo (David) Anderson of Amelia Court House, VA; Robert Kutnink of Emerson; and John Kutnink (Lucille) of Cambridge, NE; her grandchildren, Jonathan Kutnink, Jason Kutnink, Kristin Peters, Thomas Kutnink, Timothy Kutnink, Scott Kutnink and Amber Kutnink; her sister-in-law, Margarete Westenburg of Emerson; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Keith Pals Nov. 25, 2006, at the United Methodist Church in Irwin. Burial was held at the Emerson Cemetery in Emerson, by Rev. Glenn Rankin with Kristin Kutnink as an honorary casket bearer and Tim Kutnink, Jonathan Kutnink, Tom Kutnink, Scott Kutnink, Amber Kutnink and Jason Kutnink casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

