

Ramona Peterson, 83

Sept. 12, 1928 - Nov. 13, 2011

HARLAN — Ramona Gail Peterson was born on September 12, 1928 to Lafe and Myrtle Belle (McMurphy) Fairchild on a farm near Irwin. She attended various country schools and Audubon High School.



Ramona was united in marriage to Urban "Pete" Peterson on February 18, 1947 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Two children were born to this union: Richard and Janet. Ramona worked for thirty years at Variety Distributors in Harlan, as a buyer before retiring when she was 65. She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and was on the board for the Therkildsen Senior Center and volunteered there as well as volunteering at

Myrtue Medical Center. Ramona and her three sisters, Dixie, Leona, and Irma Jean, sewed over 400 blankets and donated them to the Council Bluffs Home for Battered Women and Children, Children's Square in Council Bluffs, all area nursing homes, Atlantic Lutheran Church for the Atlantic Center of Battered Women and Children, and others in need. She loved to sew and make crafts and go to craft fairs. When she wasn't sewing or quilting, she would be tending to her flower garden, following the Cubs, or collecting cat figurines. She loved her cat, Sam. Ramona died on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of eighty-three years, two months, and eleven days.

Ramona was preceded in death by her parents, husband Pete, and sisters Leola Baker and Norene Pietanze. She is survived by her son Richard Peterson of Littleton, CO; daughter Janet and her husband Don Drefke of Marcus; granddaughter Abby Drefke of Sioux City; sisters Leona Erb of Harlan, Irma Weber of Audubon, and Dixie Andersen of Irwin; brother Kelly Fairchild of Harlan; brothers-in-law Peter Pietanze of Omaha, NE and Ben Peterson of Ormond Beach, FL; sister-in-law Bonnie Peterson of Harlan; other family members and friends.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Kate Kohorst accompanied vocalist John Rosman. Serving as casket bearers were Michael Maiwald, Gary Anderson, Jr., Marion Maiwald, Tom Ferry, Doug DeWees and Doug Baker. A private inurnment was held at the Harlan Cemetery.

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