

## Herma Wilson, 94

March 31, 1917 - Aug. 26, 2011

**PERSIA** — Herma Lucille Kemmish Wilson was born on March 31, 1917, on the family farm west of Persia, to James William and Lottie (Brown) Kemmish. She attended Center country school near Valley View and graduated from Persia High School in 1934. While in high school, Herma played basketball; she was the center on her team.

Herma married Joseph L. Wilson in 1935, and they started their family on the family farm west of Persia. They raised six children together: three boys and three girls. The family lived in a variety of locations before settling down on First Avenue in Persia. Herma was very active in her church and community. She was a lifetime member of United Methodist Church in Persia. Herma was head cook at Tri-Center High School from 1966 to 1992. Famous for her love of sports and love of students, Herma will also be fondly remembered for her chili and homemade cinnamon rolls. Herma was a true fan, attending all sporting events and school activities until she was not physically able to do so. The year she retired, Herma was presented the "Number 1 Fan Award" from Tri-Center Schools. After she retired, Herma volunteered at Jennie Edmundson Hospital, holding babies on the children's floor. She continued her love of school activities, following her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and adopted Tri-Center family. Herma peacefully passed away on August 26, 2011, at Elm Crest Retirement Center in Harlan.

Herma was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph L. Wilson; three children: James W. Wilson of Persia, Jane Ann Wilson Brown and Jean Wilson McGuire, both of Council Bluffs; two daughters-in-law, Betty Points Wilson (John), of Detroit, MI, and Ardis Koeppen Wilson (James) of Mapleton. Herma was the last surviving member of her family. She was also preceded in death by her parents James Williams and Lottie (Brown) Kemmish of Persia; siblings: Lloyd Kemmish (Marge), of Spokane, WA, Duane Kemmish (Vonda), of Persia, and Lorna Hansen (Glenn), of San Diego, CA. Her legacy continues with two sons, John J. Wilson of Mesa, AZ and Jerry L. Wilson (Jill) of Yankton, SD; and daughter Jan Wilson of Persia; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Pastor Orris Drake officiated the 1:00 p.m. funeral service at the United Methodist Church in Persia, on Tuesday, August 30, 2011. Jill Wilson accompanied vocalist Reva Jean Drake. Honorary casket bearers were Benjamin Wilson, Dean Plambeck, Ayden Coenen, Tyler Coenen, Jack Wilson, Tanner Brown, Robert Brown, Jeremy Tunesi, Alex Brown, and Derek Blair. Serving as casket bearers were Scott Wilson, Joseph Leonard Brown, Steven Plambeck, Jim Wilson, Ryan Coenen, and Marc Wilson. Interment was held at the Valley View Cemetery in Persia.

*Pauley  
Jones*

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