

D. Arlene Carstensen
07-06-24 - 9/19/2005

(Source: <http://www.mitchellfh.com/obituary.aspx?MemberId=10906>)

D. Arlene Carstensen, 81, of the Embers, 1211 West State Street, died early Monday morning, September 19th, at the MMSC while in care of the Iowa River Hospice. Her death came peacefully at 2:17 A.M.

Funeral services and a celebration of her life will be held at 10:30 A.M. Thursday at the 1st Baptist Church with Pastor Conrad Lundberg officiating. She will be laid to rest in the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. Friends may call at the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown from 6-8:00 P.M. on Wednesday. For condolences, please visit www.mitchellfh.com. The Mitchell Family Funeral Home (641-844-1234) is caring for Arlene and her family.

Born De Loris Arlene Carstensen on July 6th, 1924, west of Laurel, Iowa in Jasper County, she was the daughter of James and Nancy Adeline Parker Callahan. She attended school in Laurel and moved to Rhodes at a young age. She attended country school before moving to town in 5th grade. She graduated from the Rhodes High School in 1942.

She was united in marriage to Elmer Wignall in 1944 and Cecil Thorn in 1947, divorcing from both prior to marrying Peter W. Carstensen on August 24th, 1953 in Marshalltown. They made their home in Marshalltown, where she had moved to in 1944, for all of their married lives. She was employed at the Ammunition factory in Ankeny in WWII and later Montgomery Wards, Clifton Grocery and W.T. Grant Store in Marshalltown before beginning at Maulsby Electric in November 1952 until retiring in 1986, but also working part-time for Maulsby Roofing.

Arlene was an active member of the 1st Baptist Church and served in many areas of the church including chancel choir, librarian, church communications committee and costume department. She was also a member of the GFWC/Iowa, Marshalltown Women's Club, served as Treasurer and Secretary for the Rhodes Alumni Association and worked at the Binford House in Marshalltown.

Surviving are her brother-in-law Lester Carstensen of Gladbrook, special friend Pat Richeson of Melbourne, nieces, nephews, cousins, her church family, her Embers family and a host of friends.

In death she has rejoined her beloved husband Peter who died November 25th, 1985, her parents, sister Frances in 1935 and sister Mary Adeline in infancy.