

January 29, 2004

Rita M. Howe

May 2, 1920, to Jan. 24, 2004

Rita M. Howe, 83, of rural Clemons, died Saturday evening, Jan. 24, at Israel Family Hospice House in Ames.

She was born May 2, 1920, in rural Clemons to Arthur and Nellie (Lawler) Dunn. She graduated from Liberty Consolidated High School in Liberty Township, rural Saint Anthony. She attended Iowa State Teachers' College in Cedar Falls, and taught in Clarksville and Eldora. On June 1, 1944, she married Ralph R. Howe at Sacred Heart Church in Saint Anthony. They lived in Miami and Key West, Fla., a short while before Ralph was sent overseas for a tour of duty with the Navy. In 1948 the couple moved from Eldora to north of Clemons, where they began farming near her parents. She was an active, longtime member of Sacred Heart Church, where she served on the cluster council, was president of the parish council and held various offices of the Altar and Rosary Society and Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, including president for both organizations. She served on the Marshall County election board for many years, acting as a counter, and hosting caucus groups in her home.

Survivors include her husband, Ralph; six children, Sister Connie Howe of Eldora, Rick (and Patricia) Howe of State Center; Carmen Bolton of Melbourne, Russell Howe of Detroit, Mich., Tamma Howe of Des Moines and Roger Howe of rural Clemons; four grandchildren; and one sister, Opal Grandfield of Des Moines.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Leo Dunn and a sister, Jerene Barlow.

Funeral mass was held Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Saint Anthony with the Rev. Jon Seda officiating. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, rural Saint Anthony. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Rita M. Howe Memorial Fund. Fredregill Funeral Home, Zearing, handled arrangements.

OBITUARIES

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A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Saint Anthony with the Rev. Jon Seda officiating with burial in St. John's (Dunn) Cemetery, rural Saint Anthony. Pallbearers were her three sons and her four grandchildren.

Rita was born May 2, 1920 in rural Clemons to Arthur and Nellie (Lawler) Dunn. She graduated from Liberty Consolidated High School in Liberty Township, rural Saint Anthony. She met Ralph R. Howe of Janesville, IA while attending Iowa State Teachers' College in Cedar Falls. Following graduation from college, she taught school in Clarksville and later in Eldora. On June 1, 1944 Rita and Ralph were married at Sacred Heart Church in Saint Anthony. They lived in Miami and Key West, FL for a short while before Ralph was sent overseas for tour duty with the Navy. In 1948 Rita and Ralph moved from Eldora to north of Clemons where they began farming near her parents and where they raised their six children. Rita was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Rita was an active, longtime member of Sacred Heart Church

where she served on the cluster council, was president of the parish council, and held various offices of the Altar and Rosary Society and Dubuque Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women, including president for both organizations. Her decorative bulletin boards and religious centerpieces for church functions were enjoyed by many.

Rita was also active in the political arena, serving on the Marshall County election board for many years, acting as a census counter, and hosting caucus groups in her home.

Rita is survived by her husband, Ralph; her six children: Sister Connie Howe, Eldora; Rick Howe (Patricia) State Center; Carmen Bolton, Melbourne; Russell Howe, Detroit, MI; Tamma Howe, Des Moines; and Roger Howe, rural Clemons; four grandchildren: Nicholas Howe, Ross Howe, Michelle Bolton and Paige Bolton; and one sister, Opal Grandfield, Des Moines.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Leo Dunn, and a sister Jerene Barlow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Rita M. Howe memorial fund.

Fredregill Funeral Home of Zearing was in charge of arrangements.