

MID IOWA ENTERPRISE

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April 6, 2006

Naomi Wilkening
04/05/2006

Naomi Wilkening, 92, of rural State Center, died late Monday night, March 27th, at the Rolling Green Nursing Home in Nevada.

Funeral services and a celebration of Naomi's life were held Friday, March 31st, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church at State Center with Pastor Gary MacManus officiating. She was laid to rest in the Hillside Cemetery. For condolences, please visit www.mitchellfh.com. The Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown is caring for Naomi and her family. 844-1234.

Born Naomi Miriam Jessen on June 15th, 1913, in Toronto, Iowa, she was the daughter of Chris and Celia C. (Jepson) Jessen. She received her education in the State Center Schools, graduating in 1931.

She attended Wartburg College and worked for Bos Trucklines in Marshalltown for several years.

On February 18th, 1940, she was united in marriage to Melvin Wilkening of State Center. They moved to a farm southwest of State Center where she was a homemaker and seamstress. Mrs. Wilkening was a lifetime member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Ladies Aid of the church, treasurer of the church and supported the functions of the church full-heartedly. She played the church organ full time in early adulthood and later part-time. Naomi will be fondly remembered for her love of family, gardening and canning, and seamstress work.

Left to celebrate her life are her three daughters: Ruth Ann Smyth of Solon, Iowa, Mary Jane Dixon of State Center and Diane Kay Empie of Nashville, TN, four grandchildren; Mark Smyth, Scott (Lori) Smyth, Erin (Bryan) Ray and Jeffrey (Jill) Masse, eight great-grandchildren; Hallie and Katie- daughters of Mark Smyth, Courtney and Kelsey- daughters of Scott (Lori) Smyth, Jack and Adam- sons of Erin (Bryan) Ray and Taylor and Ashlyn- daughters of Jeffrey (Jill) Masse, brothers Irving (Lu) Jessen of Albuquerque, NM and Wayne (the late Elizabeth) Jessen of Centennial, CO, brother-in-law Jim Hunt of Albuquerque, NM, as well as nieces, nephews and a host of family members and friends. In death she has rejoined her parents, her husband Melvin who died September 7th, 2004, and a sister Ruth Hunt who died on July 3rd, 2005 in Albuquerque, NM.

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