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Helen Paul



April 24, 1907, to Sept. 4, 2002

Helen Wendel Thompson Paul, 95, of Ames and formerly of Nevada, died of heart failure on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the Green Hills Health Care Center.

She was born April 24, 1907, in Audubon to Charles D. and Anna E. (Koenig) Wendel. After graduating from Van Horne High School in 1926, she taught grades one through eight for two years at the Dalton School in Colo. She graduated from Presbyterian St. Luke's School of Nursing in Chicago in 1932. She married the Rev. Golden O. Thompson on July 16, 1933, in Radcliffe. They lived in LeMars, and she received a B.A. degree in 1964 from Westmar College after rearing her family. After Golden retired in 1970, they spent two years (1972-1974) in Piracicaba, Brazil. They then lived in Des Moines until Golden's death in 1975. She married Elmer J. Paul on Nov. 1, 1983, in Des Moines. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Association of University Women and the Iowa Mother's Association. She was chosen and honored as the Iowa Mother of the Year in 1968. She was a former volunteer for the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Head Start and Hospice of Central Iowa.

Survivors include a son, Wendel Thompson of Columbia, Md.; three daughters, JoAnn Wer of Omaha, Neb., Karen Johnson of Syracuse, N.Y., and Mary Kercher of Port Tobacco, Md.; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Golden on Feb. 24, 1975, and Elmer on Sept. 23, 2001; twin sons, Daniel Joseph and Joseph Charles on May 18, 1934; two sisters and four brothers.

The body has been donated to the University of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines and memorial services will be held Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Nevada with Pastor Steve Williams officiating. Burial will be held at a later date in the Lincoln Cemetery in Huxley. A memorial fund has been established for the American Cancer Society or the Hospice of Central Iowa. Chet Ryan Mortuary, Nevada, handled arrangements.

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