



**Marilyn L. (Smith)
Lounsberry**

Nov. 3, 1926-MARCH 11, 2009

(OVER)

Marilyn L. (Smith) Lounsberry, 82, passed away with her husband at her side Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Story County Long Term Care facility in Nevada of a stroke. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at First United Methodist Church, 1036 Seventh St., in Nevada, with Pastor Steve Williams officiating. Burial will be in Nevada Municipal Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Chet Ryan Mortuary, 708 Fifth St., in Nevada.

Marilyn was born Nov. 3, 1926, in Nevada, to Marvin and Signa (Phelps) Smith. She was a 1944 graduate of Nevada High School. She had many interests, one being music, so while in

high school, she took voice lessons from Mrs. Sapp. Marilyn developed a nice singing voice that she used on many occasions. On leave from the U.S. Navy after World War II ended, she married her longtime boyfriend, Ray Lounsberry, of Colo, on Aug. 31, 1945, at First United Methodist Church in Nevada. She was such an avid reader, she would check out books from the local library, but her favorite book was her Bible, which she read cover to cover twice. Having had only one year of college, she had a great desire to become an elementary teacher. After her children were in high school, she drove to Drake University for three years, missing only two days, to get her degree and graduated in 1969. She soon was hired by Superintendent Keith Tad-

lock to teach elementary school in Colo, which she dearly loved. When one of her fourth-grade classes that she had taught graduated in 1984, she was thrilled when they asked her to be the speaker at their commencement.

While wintering in Arizona for 12 years, she adored hiking with friends in the Superstition and surrounding mountains. In 1977, she and Ray joined a hiking group in Iowa City and traveled with 12 other hikers and flew to Tanzania, Africa, and made it to the top of Kilimanjaro, approximately 19,000 feet.

She and Ray resided on a farm east of Nevada for 62 years, until 20 months ago when she went to stay at Story County Long Term Care. There she made many

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friends. The nursing staffs, especially Sue Rucker, were such caring people.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and was active until being disabled. She was also a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary and served on the Nevada Historical Board.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Ray; two granddaughters, Katie and her husband, Andy Shaw, of Orlando, Fla., and Rebekah and her husband, Paul Pelley, of Santa Clara, Calif.; nieces and nephews; and many friends, especially The Coach.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Marvin Smith, on Jan. 23, 1974; and all of her children, Tommie, on May 19, 1950, Signa Widner, on Sept. 29, 1990, and Frank, on Jan. 25, 1999.

Online condolences may be left on Marilyn's guest book at www.chetryanmortuary.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Cystic Fibrosis, Story County Long Term Care or Seventh Day Adventist Church.