



## Helen M. Dittmer

April 30, 1917 - June 21, 2014

Helen Mae Dittmer was born to Frank J. and Minnie M. (Strauss) Schelbitzki on April 30, 1917 at Ohiowa, Nebraska and passed away on June 21, 2014 at Heritage Crossings in Geneva, Nebraska at the age of 97 years, 1 month and 22 days.

Helen grew up in a large family and was the fourth oldest of eight children. There were always chores and hard work for them to do, but they always managed to have a good time together. She attended Harmony School in the country through eighth grade, then high school in Ohiowa.

Helen was married to Hollis Dittmer on March 4th, 1935 in Belleville, Kansas. Helen was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church near Ohiowa, where she became a member. Helen's church was very important to her; she served as a member of Ladies Aid for 48 years. They had two daughters, Patsy and Vicki. Due to their 17-year age difference, Patsy has fond memories of the farm, while Vicki grew up in town.

Hollis and Helen worked on the Bruning farm until 1958, when Hollis had to quit farming due to health problems. They then bought a service station on the west edge of Bruning on Highway 81. Helen ran the restaurant while Hollis tended to the cars and trucks. After selling the service station in 1963, they bought and moved into a house in Bruning.

Helen also worked at the café in Bruning while raising a large garden at home. She and Hollis liked camping and fishing and enjoyed their membership in the Flying Farmers of Nebraska, taking many flights to various places.

Hollis passed away on October 13, 1981. Several years later, Helen retired from her restaurant job. During her retirement, she enjoyed playing cards with her friends and vacationed in Branson. She continued to keep a pretty yard with lots of plants and flowers.

Her greatest joys in life were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved playing games and spending time with them. Helen was well-known in the community for her delicious custard pie, chocolate cake and boiled spice cake.

In 2005, she sold her home in Bruning, where she had lived for 42 years, and moved to an apartment in Geneva. She enjoyed going to the Senior Center for dinner, attending church on Sundays, and socializing with friends.

In December 2012, Helen went to live at Heritage Crossings, where she took pleasure in all of the activities, music and new friends that she made. She loved all the people she became acquainted with, and she was loved by everyone that knew her.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Hollis, parents Frank and Minnie (Strauss) Schelbitzki; sisters Gladys Dittmer, Elsie Gaston, Irene Willmore and Lois Heath; brothers S. Sgt. Frank Schelbitzki, Hollis Schelbitzki, and Lloyd Schelbitzki, and son-in-law Ronald Hulse.

She is survived by daughters Patsy Hulse of Wahoo, and Vicki and Terry Enghauser of Davenport; six grandchildren Kathleen and George Parris of Audubon IA, Michael Hulse of Wahoo, Trish and Dave Albrecht of Lincoln, Julie and Alfonso Peña Lopez of Davenport, Jennifer Enghauser of Omaha, and Jason and Wendy Enghauser of Omaha; twelve great-grandchildren Morgan Parris, Lauren and Ethan Albrecht, Kourtney Enghauser, Justin Criner, Haley, Alfonso Jr. and Julian Peña Lopez, and Rushea, Devante, Samantha and Alexis Enghauser; and sister-in-law lone Schelbitzki of Geneva.

Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at the Grace Lutheran Church rural Ohioa, Nebraska with Pastor Jonathan Jensen officiating. Jody Meyer accompanied the congregation who sang How Great

Thou Art, In The Garden and Amazing Grace. Casket bearers were Michael Hulse, Dave Albrecht, George Parris, Jason Enghauser, Layne Schelbitzki and Fred Bruning. Interment was in the Ohiowa Public Cemetery with Farmer & Son Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are directed to the family.