



Lavinia "Vee" F. Wilhelms

December 28, 1923 - November 6, 2013

Lavinia Frances Wilhelms was born to Frank and Ada (Stancombe) Abberton on December 28, 1923 at Sydney, Australia. She passed away on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at Hebron, Nebraska at the age of 89 years, 10 months, and 8 days. She was the oldest of two daughters in the family.

Vee, as she was affectionately known, was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sydney in 1924. She made her first Holy Communion on June 11, 1934 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Brisbane, Australia. Her schooling was at St. Joseph Convent and East Brisbane Finishing School. She was confirmed in February of 1945 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia by Pastor Theo Reimers.

Even though Vee had vowed that she would never marry an American, she met and began dating a young serviceman, Eilert Wilhelms, of Bruning, Nebraska. They were married on March 17, 1945 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, also by Pastor Theo Reimers. The couple adopted and raised two children, Robert and Patti. When the war ended, Eilert had to return to the United States before his bride was permitted to come. Vee set off on the journey to her new home by herself. She sailed aboard the U.S. Mariposa from Brisbane to the U.S. on April 11, 1946, arriving in Bruning on April 30, 1946. When the war brides arrived in San Francisco, they boarded a train. When the train reached Denver, one of the brides whom she had met, had no one there to meet her. Vee said, "If that happens to me, I will be returning home." Eilert did meet her at Fairmont, and they drove to their new home. When they went through Bruning, Eilert said, "This is Bruning," and Vee asked, "Where is it?" Bruning has been her home ever since. Her parents came for a visit to Bruning and stayed for a year from March 1953 to March 1954. Vee took her Citizenship Exam in Lincoln, Nebraska in July of 1953 and became a U.S. citizen in August of 1953. She was very proud of this accomplishment. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Women, and Circle II. Vee was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Ada; her husband Eilert; granddaughter Jamie Korbelik Gibson; sister Joyce and husband Lenny; Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Virgil and wife Ardath Wilhelms and Darlene Norder and husband Arnold.

She is survived by her son Robert and wife Laura Wilhelms of Arvada, Colorado; daughter

Patti Witters of Lincoln, Nebraska; grandchildren Bryan, Laura, Brandon, Jessica, Jennifer, Lindsey, and Leslie; 12 great grandchildren; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Alton and Ardis Wilhelms of Lincoln, Nebraska; and by nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Funeral services for Vee were held on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Bruning, Nebraska. Pastor Stuart Sell officiated the service. Janice Fintel accompanied the congregation in the singing of "How Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace," and "Beautiful Savior."

Pallbearers for the service included Tony Norder, Brad Dowdy, Regg Carnes, Neil Carnes, Terry Bowman, and Gary Wagner. Honorary bearers were Dale Remmers, Dean Dirks, Kurt Philippi, Duane Hume, Lowell Schweer, Jr., and Fred Kobza. Interment was held in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are directed to the Nebraska Children's Home in Omaha, 3549 Fontenelle Blvd, Omaha, NE 68137.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ Hi there! My name is Bryan Wilhelms and this was my grandmother. I heard that she was gone and I had to find out for myself. I was not around when she passed and would love to visit her grave. Rest with the Angels Grandma

Bryan Wilhelms - June 28, 2024 at 10:27 PM

DW

“ The end of another era. Joy Mildred passed away 24 Jan 2004 leaving Vee as the last of that Abberton family. However the daughters(Kay, Berys, Vicki and Penny) of Joy and Len Wright,Vee's late sister and brother in law wish to send their sincere sympathy to Bob and Patti and their families on their recent loss of Vee. Although over the years we have had limited contact with Aunty Vee, she will always hold a special place in our hearts.

D'Alton, Dawson, Beitz and Wright - November 10, 2013 at 11:30 PM

GN

“ I wanted to express my sympathy from the Nebraska Children's Home Society and myself. I have had the pleasure of visiting with Vee and Eilert in the past on my trips to the Bruning area. She was always so warm and welcoming to my calls and visits. She was always so happy to share about her family. She always encouraged me to stop by again. I always loved her story about how she and Eilert met. My God be with your family as she will be missed. We at the Nebraska Children's Home are honored the Vee felt NCHS merited inclusion in her memorial gifts. God Bless and my sympathy, Gary Nelson

Gary Nelson - November 08, 2013 at 03:05 PM

AA

“ Dear Bob, Patty; I'm so sorry for your loss. I wish I lived closer at times like this. I always enjoyed your mom. She was a classy lady and so kind to me. I'll miss Aunt Vee. Blessings to you, Angie

Angie and Jim Allen - November 07, 2013 at 09:40 PM