



Wilma Rose Murphy

August 5, 1916 - May 4, 2013

Wilhelmina Rose Votipka Murphy was born to William and Rose (Hromadka) Votipka on August 5, 1916 on a farm south of Exeter, Nebraska. She graduated from Exeter High School in 1933, and taught in country schools south of Exeter.

On June 17, 1940, she married Leo W. (Swede) Murphy, her high school sweetheart. They enjoyed 49 years together, raising six children on the family farm.

While their children attended St. Stephen's Catholic School, Wilma was active in the Home and School Association. In the early 1960's she worked at the Exeter Rexall Drug store. When Memory Manor opened in 1965, she was on the first staff of caregivers, then worked as secretary for her sons at Murphy Plumbing and Heating until 1984.

After Swede died in 1989, Wilma continued to live in the house they built when they were married, until she moved to the Exeter Care Center at age 90. Throughout her life, she was an inspiration with her strong faith, graceful demeanor, and love of family.

Kolaches, canasta, cooking and crafts are among the many things Wilma shared with family. With dozens of grandchildren and great grandchildren, she always had plenty of visitors, as well as activities to attend. She enjoyed her many friends, including those in bridge and pinochle groups, fitness classes, St. Stephen's Altar Society and Exeter Woman's Club. Wilma enjoyed travel, reading, and working crossword puzzles.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, three sisters, and a son-in-law. She is survived by her brother, Bill Victor of Northridge, California; three daughters and sons-in-law, three sons and daughters-in-law; 17 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren. Her children and their spouses are: Kathleen and Bob Harre of rural Exeter, Bill and Carol Murphy of Crete, Tim and Sherrill Murphy of Omaha, Kriss and Gib Fendrick of Omaha, Barry and Sylvia Murphy of Exeter, and Rose and Dan Vodvarka of Lincoln. Funeral services 10:30 a.m., Tuesday at the St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Exeter. Rosary services Monday, at 7:30 p.m. at the Farmer Funeral Home in Exeter, NE. Visitation Monday, from 1 p.m. until rosary at the Farmer Funeral Home in Exeter. Memorials are in care of the family. Interment will be in the Exeter Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

GA

“ *Wilma was one of the most spiritual women I've ever known. She was so amazed at all the blessings her Lord had given her, and she liked to brag to me about "graduating" from hospice. Know you are in my thoughts and prayers - she loved all of you.*

Ginny Adams - May 09, 2013 at 04:38 PM

SL

“ *Sincere sympathy to the family. She will always be remembered as a kind, gracious lady.*

Steve & Kay Lawson - May 06, 2013 at 05:00 PM

PK

“ *My deepest sympathy is extended to the Murphy family. Wilma was such a sweet woman. May your memories of your Mom comfort you at this time.*

Paula Kaiser-Asmus - May 06, 2013 at 03:16 PM

AV

“ *My father John Votipka had favorite nieces and one of them was Wilma. He always looked forward to a visit from her thru the years up until his death. She was a special person. My sympathy to the family.*

Annie Votipka - May 06, 2013 at 01:44 PM