

Ester Handsaker, our beloved mother walked home with her Lord on May 15, 2022, after 91 years of a long and fulfilling life.

Ester May (Winborn) Handsaker, came into this world, the youngest of 7 born to John T. and Mabel (Schwimley) Winborn on May 28, 1930, in rural Kalona, Iowa.

She grew up on the family farm and went to a one room school in Sharon Township. In 1938, she contracted polio at the age of 8 which left her with debilitating leg and foot issues. This was the start of her lifelong struggle with health issues. For high school, she moved from the farm to Iowa City with her parents and attended school in the much larger city school, finding it very hard to adjust. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Home Economics in 1953 at Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa, a small Christian college. This was the first class to graduate with a 4-year teaching degree from that school. Upon graduation, her first teaching job was in Colo, Iowa. While there singing in the church choir, her future mother-in-law saw a potential wife for her bachelor farming son. This was just what Ester needed, someone to take care of and she was just what Wayne needed, someone to take care of him. It was a perfect partnership that lasted 50 years until his death. Ester has carried on managing the family farm until the very end. She was involved in 4-H, as a leader and judging at fairs. Her faith kept her very active in the church and community. She was a member of the choir, Clover Leaf Club, UMW and wherever she was needed. She learned to cut hair by sitting in the car outside the barbershop and watching. Wayne never had to pay for another haircut. There was always a large vegetable garden, canning, sewing all her clothes, her girl's clothes, and others. She loved to cook. If you ever stopped by the farm, the kitchen table was a place for conversation and homemade goodies. After retirement, Wayne and Ester took off in their motor home to Arizona or Florida for three months during the winters. They were like little kids at camp, Wayne playing pool and doing crafts while Ester enjoyed silversmithing and other crafts. She loved to 'visit' and had the gift of 'talking' and remembering people and their names. She touched everyone she met and always had something to say. To her, it could be a 'teachable moment'.

Surviving are daughters Anna Handsaker of Davenport, Iowa; Marla Handsaker-Turk (Byron) of South Lake Tahoe, California; daughter-in-law: Bonita Handsaker of Colo; her grandchildren: Brandon (Allison) Handsaker of Colo, Brooke (Jason) (Handsaker) Sellers of Colo. Jack Turk of South Lake Tahoe, California; her great grandchildren: Riley and Brady Handsaker of Colo, Campbell Sellers of Colo; her sister: Alice Thompson of Ames; her sister-in-law: Margaret Handsaker of Colo, and many nieces and nephews.

Ester is preceded in death by her husband Wayne; her son: Rex Handsaker; four brothers: Everette, Milton, Walter and Russell; her sister: Lucille (Winborn) Williams.

Memorial contributions may be made to Colo United Methodist Church and Nevada Story County Senior Care in memory of Ester.

Rasmusson-Ryan Funeral Home in Nevada is handling arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rasmussonfh.com