**Darlene Kay Geiken = April 24, 1937 - March 31, 2017**

Memorial Services for Darlene Geiken will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Ramsey Reformed Church, rural Titonka, at 10:30 AM. Her family will greet friends beginning at 9:30 AM at the church. Inurnment will be at 1:00 PM at Graceland Cemetery, rural Buffalo Center.

Darlene Tapper Geiken was born April 24, 1937, and passed from this life on March 31, 2017. She was the oldest child of Walter and Bessie (Abbas) Tapper. Darlene grew up on her parents' farm southwest of Buffalo Center, attending country school until 8th grade, and then graduating from Buffalo Center High School in 1954.

Darlene was confirmed at Ramsey Reformed Church, rural Titonka, and was a member there at the time of her death.

Riding the bus to high school, Darlene met her future husband Don. She told of how he tied her boots together to the bus seat, and of how on their first date, Grandma Tapper met him at the door with a pan of potato peelings, a few seconds later and he would have gotten a potato peel shower.

Don and Darlene married August 18, 1954, at Ramsey Reformed Church and made their home in Buffalo Center, then Osage and then Swea City. Four daughters were born - Denise, Dixie, Dorilynn and Donna. After the death of Don's father, they moved to the Geiken family farm near Buffalo Center. Don and Darlene farmed together for over 50 years. Darlene could drive tractor, work cattle, and do everything else on the farm with the best of them.

Darlene joked that she learned something new every decade. She learned to swim after she was 20, to ride horse and water ski after age 30, to be a grandmother after 40, to run a computer after 50, to work at Fleetgard after 60, and to play Texas Hold'em after 70.

Don and Darlene wintered in Texas for several years. She loved the warm temperatures, the activities in the Paradise Acres Park and making new friends. She was able to spend a month in Alamo, Texas, this winter before being hospitalized.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband Donald (2014), her parents, and her parents-in-law. She is survived by her daughters: Denise (Daryl) Philipp, Dixie (Jim) Carpenter, Dorilynn (Ron) Gimondo and Donna (Geoff) Wallace; eight grandchildren: DeNae (Scott) Cramer, Darci (Chris) Grave, Kelsey (Allen) Reger, Anthony (Ariel) Gimondo, Austin Gimondo, Andrea Gimondo, Andrew Wallace, and Ashleigh Wallace; two great-grandchildren, Caden Cramer and Reagan Cramer; her sister Ardis (John) Lande and brothers Ken (Arlene) Tapper, Larry (Becky) Tapper, and Bruce (Cindy) Tapper, nieces and nephews, and special friends Les and Karen Kiewiet.

In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions to Ramsey Reformed Church in memory of Darlene. Daughter’s Address for cards: Denise Philipp, 2400 Oak Brook Dr., Denison, Iowa 51442