



Blanche (Urwiller) Koehler

October 26, 1921 - February 4, 2019

Harvard resident Blanche Lola (Urwiller) Koehler, 97, died Monday, February 4, 2019, at the Harvard Rest Haven in Harvard, NE.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m., Friday, February 8, 2019, at the United Church of Christ in Harvard, NE with Pastor Dave Johnson officiating. Interment will follow at the Harvard Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday, from 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., with the family greeting friends from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m., at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Clay Center, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the United Church of Christ in Harvard, Tabitha Hospice in Grand Island or the Harvard Rest Haven.

Blanche was born October 26, 1921, in Sodtown, NE to Henry and May (Lange) Urwiller on a farm in Buffalo County. She was part of a family of nine children, and their lives revolved around family, neighbors and church at the Zion Evangelical St. Michael Church.

She graduated from Ravenna High School in 1938. Then she went to Grand Island and worked at the American Optical Company during World War II, where they made glasses for the U.S. soldiers.

Blanche met her late husband, Lawrence at a church youth rally in Rosedale,

NE; and they were married April 25, 1948, at the Evangelical Church in Grand Island. They lived and farmed near Clay Center, NE, where they raised five children.

Blanche took great joy in raising large vegetable gardens and equally large flower gardens until just a few years before her death. Blanche was an active member of the Harvard Evangelical United Brethren Church, serving as youth leader for many years. She was also a volunteer at the Harvard Rest Home and provided "Chapel" each week for over 25 years. On April 12, 2009, she joined the United Church of Christ in Harvard.

Blanche was a charter member of the Happy Homemakers Extension Club. For more than 50 years, these women shared the joys and trials of rural life, trading household tips and health/wellness information, and supporting each other as their families grew. She was an avid writer, always sending notes or letters for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and special events for family and friends. And Grandma will always be remembered for her homemade bread, cinnamon rolls, sugar cookies, ginger snaps and athletic ability.

Blanche is survived by her five children and spouses, Randall Dean (Deborah) of Nelson; Beverly Mae Lunsford of Silver Spring, MD; Larry Gene (Rebecca) of Harvard; Gerald Lee (Karen) of Harvard; and Barbara Lola (Randall) Kemper of Lincoln; 17 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren; brother and spouse, Dr. Richard (Suzanne) Urwiller; sister in law, Ruth Nelson and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 56 years, Lawrence Calvin Koehler, four brothers, three sisters, and son-in-law, John Lunsford.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ My deepest sympathy to Blanc's family . She was a charming lady and I loved the time I spent with her. She was such a strong and loving person she will be missed by all , may your memories of this lovely lady help you.

Dixie Burgmaier - February 14, 2019 at 03:56 PM

JJ

“ Randy, Bev, Larry, Jerry, and Barb, So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was always so energetic and a great cook. I remember the Happy Homemakers Club summer picnics when all the gals with their husbands and children would gather. Lots of good fun, good food, and good times. You were blessed to have such a good mom for so many years. May she rest in peace and may you be comforted daily by the Lord. With sincere sympathy, Judy Kay Schwindt Jensen

Judy Kay Schwindt Jensen - February 13, 2019 at 07:12 AM

DM

“ Sending my thoughts and prayers to Blanche's family. Blanche was an amazing woman, and good friend and neighbor to the Slater family.

Diane Slater Mallette - February 08, 2019 at 05:15 PM

MS

“ Our deepest sympathy in the lose of your mom. She enjoyed her family and grand kids so much. I remember hearing stories about them when they were little. She was a wonderful lady when it came to helping with any church projects, she sewed, baked and did whatever was needed. I especially remember taffy pulls at their house for youth group activities.
Thinking of you during this difficult time,
Mike and Barb Salyers

Mike and Barb Salyers - February 07, 2019 at 03:37 PM

NM

“ Randy and other children: Sorry to hear about your mom's passing as she will be remembered to be a great woman. She was always at the rest home when my mom was there in 1996. She would bring baked goods especially the cinnamon rolls to us as mom was there. She would always bring the best eating dishes to the Koehler reunions and she will be missed by all.

Norm and Patricia Miller

Daytona Beach, FL

Norman Miller - February 07, 2019 at 03:13 PM

VC

“ So sorry to hear of Blanche's passing. She was such a nice lady. I would have liked to come to the funeral, but we have a sheet of ice on the ground here. The temperature isn't supposed to get above freezing so it will be here for awhile. Jim was in the hospital this last weekend for sepsis-like symptoms, so I hate to leave him alone that long. You and your family will definitely be in my prayers. Even though I can't be there physically you will be thoughts. With sincere sympathy, Vivian Cook

Vivian Cook - February 07, 2019 at 11:12 AM