



Martha Mae Stahlecker, 89, of Burwell, Nebraska died Sunday, August 30, 2015 at the CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 3, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Visitation will be from 5 – 7 p.m. Wednesday with a 6:00 p.m. Rosary at the church. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell, Nebraska. Fr. Josh Brown and Fr. Mark Maresh will officiate. Memorials are suggested to the Sacred Heart Church or the Burwell Fire Department.

Martha was born May 2, 1926 in Ord, Nebraska to James and Helen (Zikmund) Meese. She graduated from Ord High School. During World War II Martha and her sister Rita worked in Grand Island at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant building artillery shells.

Martha married Lester H. Stahlecker on July 24, 1947. They lived in Burwell. Martha helped Les as a bookkeeper for over thirty years.

Martha was a member of the Sacred Heart Parish, the American Legion Auxiliary, Altar Society and the Pink Ladies. She loved her yard, family, church, and birds, especially the wren she called Henry.

Martha is survived by two daughters, Barb “Bunny “and Dale Zulkoski of Burwell, Nebraska and Helen “Betsy” Messenger of Burwell, Nebraska. Eight grandchildren, Matt and Lanna Zulkoski of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Teresa Zulkoski of Lincoln, Nebraska, John and Sarah Zulkoski of Kearney, Nebraska, Luke and Kristie Zulkoski of Hazard, Nebraska, Jeff and Rhonda Messenger of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Anne and Mike Elliott of Burwell, Nebraska, Tom and Jessica Messenger of Kearney, Nebraska and Adam and Kelley Messenger of Kearney, Nebraska and twenty great-grandchildren. A brother, Thad and Roberta Meese of Ord, Nebraska. Three sister-in-law’s, Phyllis Meese of Ord, Nebraska, Darlene Stahlecker of Yakima, Washington and Tudy Stahlecker of Mosinee, Wisconsin and a brother-in-law, Carroll Wiegand of Fremont, Nebraska and nieces and nephews.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sisters, Rita Wiberg and Lillian Owen and a brother, James Messe, Jr.