



Sarah J. Willkens

June 10, 1929 - March 2, 2017

Sarah Willkens, 87, of Grand Island passed away on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at Brookefield Park in St. Paul.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Visitation will be an hour prior to the service. Pastor Ed Schambach Jr. will officiate. The family requests red attire as it was Sarah's favorite color. Burial will follow at Grand Island City Cemetery.

Sarah was born on June 10, 1929 in Palmer, daughter of Harry and Emma (Reeves) Fogland.

She is survived by her children, Craig (Kellie) Willkens of Grand Island and Lona (Prof. David) Marks of Minneapolis, MN; grandson, Joseph Willkens of Grand Island; nieces, Sarah Barth and Shelley Bucholz both of Lincoln; along with numerous extended family and friends.

Sarah was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Lloyd "Lucky" Willkens and sister, Adeline Green.

As a lifelong Nebraska resident, Sarah grew up on a farm near Palmer. She graduated from Central City and continued her education and was a proud member of the first graduating summer school class from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with her Master's in Education.

On December 23, 1951, she was married to Lloyd "Lucky" Willkens. This union was blessed with 59 years together and two children.

Sarah was employed as a Title 1 reading specialist and helped children with reading and comprehension skills while employed at Trinity Lutheran School, Central Catholic and Grand Island Public Schools.

Sarah was a dedicated member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church; she was active in HATS group, Wednesday Bible Study, Senior's Ministry and Stephen's Ministry.

Sarah lived a very full life and shared her love and compassion in many ways. As an avid member of Angel Collectors of America, Sarah enjoyed attending conventions and local meetings with her fellow collectors. She would also give inspirational lectures to many bible studies and women's groups about the angels in the Bible. She was a lifelong reader, anything from mystery to inspirational. Sarah was very social; she loved to shop and travel and was in the Conestoga Mall Fashion show several times. She also enjoyed time spent outdoors with all of her flower gardens. We were blessed by her long earthly life and thankful for her legacy of faith, independence, work ethic and the loving spirit she left with us and we look forward to seeing her again in eternity.

Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ Sarah J. Willkens

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ I worked with Sarah at Dodge Elementary and she was a woman who was so easy to get to know. She always made you feel so good and she truly enjoyed working with students.
She will be missed!
Jackie Bigley

Jackie Bigley - March 22, 2017 at 09:43 AM



“ I have many memories of our special neighbor and friend from 15th street. However one that stands out is that on the day I got hired at GIPS I quickly told Sarah and so to celebrate she took out the cooper mugs and made us Moscow Mules! 😊😊😊😊❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

kerry - March 03, 2017 at 02:55 PM