



Wilma I Jacobson

November 9, 1928 - June 23, 2022

Wilma Jacobson, 93, of Grand Island, died on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at Good Samaritan Village. A private graveside service was held on Monday, June 27th at Grand Island City Cemetery, with Dan Naranjo of All Faiths Funeral Home presiding.

Wilma Ileen Rauert was born on the Niemoth family farm in Grand Island on November 9, 1928 to Arnold and Minnie (Niemoth) Rauert. She was baptized and confirmed at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Wilma grew up and attended 7E School through the 8th grade, graduating in 1942. She was proud of the fact that she ranked 3rd in Hall County out of 97 students and was recognized for having perfect attendance. Wilma was bestowed an honorary degree at Grand Island Senior High School in May 2012. At the time, she was the only non-military individual to be awarded an honorary diploma.

Wilma was employed in several jobs after her 8th grade graduation, working for Bosselman/Eaton's on East Highway 30. She later worked at Hested's Department Store for over 2 years, working a 10 -hour day, 6 days a week, for \$30. In 1949, she and her best friend Belva Fierstein traveled to California for a new adventure. Wilma initially worked at a restaurant in downtown Los Angeles before she and Belva found jobs at Auto-Lite, a battery factory. They rode the streetcar from Watts to work, and passed the Hollywood sign quite often. In April 1951, Wilma returned to Grand Island

and purchased the Central Café near the Koehler Hotel with her sister Bertha and brother-in-law Marvin Larson. They operated this business until 1955.

Wilma Rauert and Eugene Jacobson were united in marriage at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island on February 24, 1952. Their union was blessed with three children: Diane, Connie and Janet.

In addition to her membership in the Messiah Lutheran Church prior to her marriage, Wilma was a member of the Methodist Church in Wolbach and Grand Island for 70 years. She was Secretary to the Housing Board in Wolbach for a number of years; served on various Methodist Church boards; was a member of the 1987 Bustle Dusters Centennial Committee; and was a Republican Party representative of the Village Electoral Board. Wilma purchased a laundromat in Wolbach in the mid- 1960s and operated it for a number of years. She was an original do-it-yourselfer, repairing plaster, painting, hanging drywall, and tiling. Wilma and Eugene lived in Wolbach until moving to Grand Island in 2000.

Throughout their married life, Wilma, Eugene, and family traveled throughout the lower 48 states. In 1988 they began RVing around the country and the girls would often meet up with them.

Survivors include her three daughters; sister-in-law Georgia (Jacobson) Schrum of Stockton, CA; and sister-in-law Audrey Rauert of Omaha.

She was preceded in death by her husband Eugene, married nearly 70 years; her parents Arnold and Minnie Rauert; her in-laws George and Alice Jacobson; brother Paul (Carroll) Rauert; sister Bertha (Marvin) Larson; brother Bill Rauert; brother-in-law Ervin Schrum; and sister-in-law Dolores (Herb) Galitz.

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilma I Jacobson*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM