

KIER, GLADYS Judith (Jensen)
September 23, 1912
rural Hurley
February 26, 2007
Viborg

Gladys Kier



Gladys Judith Jensen was born on September 23, 1912, and passed away peacefully on February 26, 2007, at the age of 94, in Viborg, South Dakota.

Gladys was born at home, the second of seven children born to Joseph and Hannah Jensen of rural Hurley, South Dakota. As a child, Gladys' family relocated to another farm near Marion, South Dakota, where Gladys grew up. As a teenager, Gladys went to live with and care for her ailing grandmother in Centerville where she graduated from high school in 1929.

Gladys went on to attend college at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Shortly after earning her teaching certificate, Gladys accepted teaching positions in rural Hurley and Viborg, South Dakota. There, Gladys gained an appreciation for coffee and open-faced sandwiches. Besides teaching grades K-8, Gladys also created and directed the schools' musical programs. One Christmas, Harmon Kier was in the audience. They met, got engaged, and married on July 28, 1942.

Gladys followed Harmon to Little Rock, Arkansas, until he completed his service in the U.S. Army. In 1945, the pair moved back to South Dakota and settled in Vermillion, South

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Dakota, to start their family. They raised three lively children: Douglas, Gordon, and Carolyn.

In 1963, Gladys, Harmon, and their children moved to Harmon's family farm of rural Viborg. Since Gladys' children were practically grown, she decided to go back to teaching Kindergarten and music in Hurley, South Dakota. She greatly enjoyed teaching those children and thoroughly enjoyed seeing them around long after they graduated. Gladys retired from teaching in 1976.

Gladys and Harmon enjoyed their retirement, traveling in their motor home all over the country. In 1982, Harmon suffered a debilitating stroke and Gladys became his primary care provider. Despite this setback they continued to travel, spending many winters in Oregon with their daughter, Carolyn and family. They lived together on their farm until Harmon's passing. Gladys continued living on the farm until the age of 93.

Gladys' story is a story of celebration of life. She enjoyed many hobbies, a love of gardening, baking, entertaining, music, and traveling. She was never one to sit still and was always on the go. She played the organ and piano at her church (The Hurley Seventh-Day Adventist Church) for decades, finally quitting at the age 93. She was active in her local Extension Club and Retired Teachers Club. In her later years, Gladys continued to travel: Oregon, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Virginia, Greece and Turkey. She took great pride in the accomplishments of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, her husband Harmon and their two sons, Douglas and Gordon. She is survived by their daughter, Carolyn (husband John) Houghton of Medford, Oregon; grandchildren, Tracy (husband Rick) Franz of St. Louis, Missouri; grandson, Kristopher Kier of Panama City, Florida; granddaughter, Lindsay Kier of Fairfax, Virginia; grandson, Doug Houghton of Walla Walla, Washington; granddaughter, Laura Houghton of Loma Linda, California; and twin granddaughters, Kathryn and Charlotte Franz of St. Louis, Missouri.

Gladys had a life enriched by her tremendous faith in God. Her life was filled with happiness, but was challenged by episodes of grief. Her faith in God sustained her for all her years. She was an inspiration to many and will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Those of us who knew her well have been richly blessed to have shared in her life.

In Memory of

Mary 12, 1921 to March 4, 2007
Services: Friday, March 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Viborg.

Officiating: Pastor Steve Unzicker.

Organist: Dotty Larsen

Soloist: Michael McDonald

Cong.. Hymns: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace"

Pallbearers: Ben Lucas, Joshua Hejl, Jon Hejl, Aaron Peterson, Wade Peterson, Brian Hanson, Robert Gonzales, George Decker, Chris Clelland.

Honorary Pallbearers: Rebecca Hanson, Rachel Lucas, Jennifer Hejl, Julia Decker, Samantha Goudy.

Interment: Rosehill Cemetery, Viborg.
Fraternal Burial assoc. Rhoda A. Fredricks