

The Life of Reta Washnok



Services for Reta Washnok, 100, of Aberdeen and formerly of Groton area, will be 11 a.m., Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Eldon Reich will officiate. Burial will follow in the Conde Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, on Friday from 5-7 p.m.

Reta fell asleep June 21, 2016 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen, where she resided since fall 2011.

Reta Padfield was born April 14, 1916, to Arthur and Leona (West) Padfield in Verdon, SD. She spent most of her childhood years in Verdon, except for two years on a farm near Crandall, SD. She attended and graduated from Verdon School, where she was one of the members of the first graduation class from Verdon School. Reta attended Northern State Teacher's College in Aberdeen and attained a teaching certificate. She taught school in rural schools in the Brown County area.

Reta married Frank Washnok of Verdon, on July 5, 1938. They had five children. Four of the children received college degrees. Richard attained a PhD from Colorado University, resulting in his own corn breeding company. Joyce attained a PhD from Western University of Michigan in Education. Lois

attained a BS degree in Elementary Education at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Dale attained a BS degree in Crop Science South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Reta and her husband continued to live in Verdon where for many years she was a secretary of the town board and school board, and also served on the town election, She was a member of the Conde United Methodist Church and taught Sunday school and Bible School. She also held offices in the United Methodist Women Organization. For many years, Reta was a member of a Brown County Extension Club. She became a member of the Diana Chapter #83 Order of the Eastern Star on April 19, 1943, where she was a member for 73 years. She also held several offices in the Diana Chapter #83.

After her family had grown Reta was employed in the Groton Elementary School Library for fifteen years. She retired in May 1985. She moved to Groton in 1978 and transferred her church and Eastern Star Membership to Groton. She enjoyed the Groton Senior Citizen Organization, volunteered at the Rosewood Assisted Living Center and the Nursing Home in Groton.

On March 1, 2001, Reta moved to Chaska, MN, to be near her daughter, Lois, and her family. She missed her SD friends and relatives, but enjoyed the many activities and the friendly acquaintances in Chaska. Her distance families visited often, and she accompanied them on Caribbean Cruises through the Panama Canal, Alaska, and times in Florida and Hawaii.

Reta returned to South Dakota in May 2006 to be near her son, Dale, and his family in Aberdeen. She became a resident of Mother Joseph Manor in November 2011, where she died.

Survivors are her children, Lois (Gayle) Degler, Chanhassen, MN, Dale (Margie) Washnok, Aberdeen, SD, son-in-law Harold Way of Kansas, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband Frank, son Richard, daughter, Joyce Way, infant son Kent Lee, brothers Arista and Arthur Padfield, and sister Harriet (Kenneth) Ragels, and daughter-in-law Marvel.

Casketbearers are her grandchildren: Grant Washnok, Todd Degler, Wade Degler, James Washnok, Marsha Knackstedt, Beth Utecht, and Rebecca Washnok.