

Joyce LaVonne Sorensen, 85, of Burwell, Nebraska died February 13, 2013 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, February 18, 2013 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Burial will be in Cottonwood Cemetery in Burwell. Pastor Alan Petersen and Fr. Tom Ryan will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 7 p.m. Sunday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Burwell Library, the Burwell Ambulance Supply Fund or the Avenue of Flags Building Fund.

Joyce was born on April 28, 1927 in Iowa City, Iowa. She grew up and graduated from Burwell High School in 1945 and went on to receive her teaching certificate. Joyce taught at the Nunda Shoal School for one and one half years. She married Marshall Sorensen on February 10, 1947 in Smith Center, Kansas. The Sorensen family moved to numerous Nebraska communities following Marshall's job in the road construction business in the 1950's and 60's. The family returned to Burwell in 1962. Joyce kept books for Burwell Independent Oil Company in Burwell for 28 years before retiring in 1998.

Joyce enjoyed working at the station and she loved the little practical jokes the guys would play on her. She gave as well as she received. Joyce loved her coffee (with or without Bailey's Irish Cream). She would play solitaire and drink coffee, talk politics on the phone and drink coffee, read a good book and drink coffee, go out to eat with her good friend of 70 plus years, Sis Haines, and have coffee. Joyce was truly lost after her friend Sis passed away. She slowly started her way toward her decline in health. The passing of her youngest son, David, shortly thereafter put Joyce's world in a spin of decline. Joyce loved seeing and being with her family especially when new great grand babies would arrive. She would say "I hope I get to be there to see them in their activities as they grow" and she got her wish. She attended everything from a drama play in Missouri to wrestling, football, baseball, volleyball and basketball games, a few State Track meets and even some sheep riding. She loved to support her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joyce is survived by five children; Nancy and Jerry Hughes of Fairmont, Nebraska, Dennis and Marilyn Sorensen of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Pat and Dale Simpson of Kearney, Nebraska, Beverly and Larry Gaukel of Burwell, Nebraska and Marsha Sorensen of California and twelve grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Joyce was preceded in death by her mother, husband and a son David.