

LaVonne Mae Held, 86, of Neligh, Nebraska, formerly of Ericson, Nebraska died August 24, 2012 at the Golden Living Center in Neligh.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the United Methodist Church in Ericson, Nebraska. Burial will be in Pibel Cemetery. Pastor Delano Cunningham will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 – 7 p.m. Monday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the Ericson United Methodist Church. Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.

LaVonne Mae Held was born March 1, 1926, in Palmer, Nebraska. She was the first child of George and Margaret (Ita) Weyers. She was raised near Burwell with her sister and two brothers.

LaVonne had a lifetime career teaching elementary school, beginning shortly after her graduation from Burwell High School in 1944. She continued her own education during years of summer school, receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Kearney State College in 1971. She taught in many rural schools in Garfield and Wheeler counties over the years, ending her teaching career at Wheeler Central Schools. She loved teaching and developed many lifelong friendships with students and their parents.

On March 18, 1949, LaVonne married Keith Held in Taylor. The couple spent their life together in Ericson, developed many wonderful friendships and raised three children. Six foster children also made their home with the couple while attending high school. As grandchildren came along, each one added joy to LaVonne's life and she developed a special relationship with each of them.

LaVonne was very active in the United Methodist Church, the Ericson Women's Club and VFW #7029. She was proud of being Commissioned as an Admiral in the Great Navy of Nebraska and receiving the Aksarben Good Neighbor Award.

LaVonne loved to fish and had fishing friends of all ages. It was known through the community that if you had fish you didn't want to clean you could drop them at LaVonne's and they wouldn't go to waste. She was known for her beautiful embroidery, crocheted afghans and especially for the beautiful quilts she created. She loved giving her work as gifts to her family and friends on special occasions. Several years ago she was honored at the Wheeler County Fair with a special quilt exhibit made up of many quilts that she had made for area residents, family, and friends. A quilt from LaVonne is considered a treasure!

Survivors include her three children; Terry of Ericson, Judy Mieth and husband Norman of Norfolk, Dean and wife Sandra of Stockham, 13 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, her sister Charlotte Easter of Ogallala, brother Ken Weyers and wife Joyce of Boise, ID., brother Vic Weyers and wife Carolyn of New Braunfels, TX., nieces and nephews and many, many friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Keith in 1997, and special friend Bernard (Bus) Clouse in 2008