

Wineva Pederson



Wineva Pederson, 98, of Des Moines and Vinton, died peacefully, Friday, May 24th of congestive heart failure.

Born Winifred Wineva Spickard to Onetta Mageehon and John Spickard in Walnut, Kansas on October 15, 1925.

Wineva grew up on the family farm in Spickard, MO, a small rural community founded by her ancestor George Alexander Spickard in 1873. Wineva had two brothers and a sister. Her family was conscious of the value of keeping a “good” name.

Wineva remembered the depression and war years, when many things were in short supply, dresses were made of feed sacks and ration stamps were used for purchasing necessities. Yet, she believed her family was fortunate because they raised hogs and milking cows so they always had food.

Wineva was a bright student and after high school graduation she studied for a special teaching certificate issued during WWII, then taught for two years in a rural one-room schoolhouse.

When Gerald Pederson returned to Spickard following his service in the US Army in Europe, he began seeing Wineva and on July 18, 1948, they were married. Gerald worked for Goodyear as a store manager and he & Wineva moved frequently as he was assigned different stores. In 1954 they purchased a Goodyear store in Vinton and moved their family of five children to that community. They lived in Vinton the next 62 years.

They joined the First Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) where Wineva served as deacon, Elder, clerk and as treasurer for 20 years. Wineva served on the Disciples Regional Ministerial Committee and as President of Church Women United establishing a used clothing store where she worked weekly for many years.

Wineva was a member of PEO, Vinton Women’s Club and Vinton Country Club where she was a skilled golfer. During her children’s early years she was a 4-H Leader and Cub Scout Den Mother.

Wineva had many close Vinton friends with whom she enjoyed golf, bridge, an investment club and morning coffees. She enjoyed daily walks by herself (she liked to keep her own pace) until the final weeks of her life.

Wineva raised her five children to be very independent. Her immediate and extended family were all important to her. She played a hugely active role as grandmother and great-grandmother hosting her nine grandchildren individually and together for summer weeks at her home in Vinton. Trips to the public library were always part of the summer adventures as well as rides on the golf cart with Grandpa. She kept in touch with all her grand and great-grandchildren through letters, emails, facebook and texts.

Wineva was a master at crosswords puzzles, jigsaw puzzles and was a life-long avid reader. She left unfinished on her reading table two books, the Illiad and Jane Austin’s Pride & Prejudice. She was interested in every subject, from classics to contemporary, from biography to theology.

Wineva was genuinely interested in people, never forgot a name, where you were from, plus each of your children’s names. She made friends easily and was kind to all.

Wineva was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald and daughter, Wineva (Eve) Mahr, her sister Evelyn and brothers Nova and John. She is survived by her son-in-law, Stephen Mahr, grandson, Derek and granddaughter Sarah Mahr Confessore, son Dennis Pederson (Cheryl), grandsons Neil and Mark, daughter Sally Pederson (Jim Autry) grandson Ronald and fiancé Bailey, step-grandsons Jim Autry, Jr. and Rick Autry, son Steve Pederson (Carol) grandson Brian and granddaughter Kim, son Alan Pederson (Julie) grandsons Adam and Jonathan, and nineteen great-grandchildren, niece Marlyn Gallagher of AZ and nephew George Spickard of MO.

Services will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church on Friday, May 31st at 11:00. Private interment will be Saturday, June 1st at Evergreen Cemetery, Vinton.

In lieu of flowers, you might honor Wineva by taking a walk, talking to a friend or reading a good book.

Memorial gifts may be made to Plymouth Church or Park Avenue Christian church, both of Des Moines, First Christian Church in Vinton or the Gerald and Wineva Pederson Fund at the Community Foundation in Vinton, IA.