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Kleppinger Funeral Home

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Dr. Bernadette R. (Remus) Menhusen

Dr. Bernadette R. (Remus) Menhusen passed away September 28, 2014 at the Mitchell County Hospital Health System Resident Care Center, Beloit, KS. The daughter of William J. and Orpha A. (Roush) Remus, Bernadette was born October 10, 1927 at St. Joseph Hospital, Concordia, KS. She grew to adulthood in the Glen Elder area, attending Honey Creek Country School and graduating from Glen Elder High School, Class of 1945. Bernadette received her teaching certificate and taught in Mitchell County's rural one room schools until her marriage to Robert S. Menhusen of Jewell, KS September 28, 1947. To this union was born a son, Monty Jay, November 15, 1948. Sadly this family was torn apart due to an auto accident April 19, 1949 where Robert was killed and Bernadette was severely injured.

Bernadette and Monty moved to the home of her parents where she resumed her teaching career in rural Mitchell County schools. She received her Bachelor of Science (Elementary Education) and Master of Science (Biology) degrees from Kansas State Teachers College, now Emporia State University, Emporia, KS. Bernadette reached the top of the education field when she received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Kansas in 1963 (Major Botany, Minor, Zoology). Once she completed her doctorate, Bernadette returned to Emporia State where she re-connected with former colleagues to train future scientists. Beyond her time at Emporia State where she attained tenure as an associate professor, she also lectured and directed programs at universities in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Florida, Tennessee, and Nebraska. Professional highlights include serving in the summer of 1964 as the Field Research Biologist for the University of Nebraska at the Lake Waconda Dam site, fellowships at the National Wildlife Federation, and publication in numerous journals of her research projects focusing mainly on plants. Bernadette was a member of several scientific and educational organizations. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma sorority where she was honored to receive recognition and a pin celebrating 50 years of membership.

In her later years, Bernadette returned to Kansas where she participated in many activities including serving as a Master Gardener in Sedgwick County as part of the Kansas State University Extension Service and serving as an adjunct professor at Friends University and Butler County Community College. A lifelong learner, Bernadette was a voracious reader and regularly attended educational lectures. She was known to collect and care for plants both inside her houses and yards. Other lifelong interests included music, painting, floral arranging, agriculture, collecting family history, and travel.

Bernadette was preceded in death by her parents, an infant sister, Olive Rose, her brother, Doyle L. Remus, husband, Robert S. Menhusen, and her son, Dr. Monty J. Menhusen. Remaining to celebrate her life are her sisters-in-law, Shirley Remus, Glen Elder, KS and Jean Knowlton, Jewell, KS, nephews, nieces, cousins, colleagues, and friends.

Services will be held at 1:30 PM Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at the Glen Elder United Methodist Church, Glen Elder, KS. Officiate will be Pastor Glenn Patterson. Pall bearers are Loren Remus, Paul Remus, Jacob Remus, Jerry Anderson, Jerry Clingman, and Mike Nulty. Visitation will be from 2-8 pm Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at the Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell, KS which is handling arrangements. Memorials made be in Bernadette's honor to the donor's choice. Burial will follow the service at the Jewell City Cemetery, Jewell, KS.