

Florence E. Strong

Jan. 20, 1933 – April 5, 2019



Florence E. Strong, 86, rural Akron, passed away at 9:15 p.m. Friday, April 5, 2019, at Miller's Merry Manor, Warsaw.

She was born on Jan. 20, 1933, in Chicago, Ill., and adopted as an infant by Aaron S. and E. Reath Fike.

She was married on July 3, 1950, in Salem in Fulton County, Arkansas, to the only love of her life, L. Merle Strong. He preceded her in death on May 5, 2011.

Florence was a homemaker and a farmer's wife as well as a rural mail carrier for nearly 10 years, retiring in 1995. She also was a former co-owner, with her daughter Charlotte, of the Lantern Café of Silver Lake, and worked at several nursing homes, which included Canterbury Manor, Rochester, and Timbercrest, North Manchester.

She was a graduate of West Plains High School in 1949. She then attended Manchester College. She gave her heart to the Lord at age 8 in the Peace Valley Church of the Brethren and later was a member of the Silver Creek Church of God for many years.

Survivors include two daughters, Carmen and husband Dr. Stephen Reed, Fort Wayne, and Charlotte and husband Charles Gerdeman, Akron; two sons, John and wife Cathy Strong, Akron, and Charles and wife Joy Strong, Monticello; grandchildren Kimberly (Reed) and husband Scott Heisler, Christopher Reed, Marlayna and husband Jamie Gagnon, Madison Strong, Levi Strong, Steven and wife Steph Tackett, Brittany Plunkett, Brian and Alana Stutsman and Jake and Cayla Stutsman; great-grandchildren Isabella Heisler, Braden Tackett, Chloe Tackett, Kaia Plunkett, Marina Gagnon, Paisley Plunkett, Audrey Stutsman and James Stutsman; and sister Elverda Oellig, West Plains, Mo.

She was preceded in death by her husband, L. Merle Strong; her sister- and brother-in-law, Viola and Richard Harlan; and her brother-in-law, Byron Oellig.

Her funeral service is 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at Hartzler Funeral Home, 305 W. Rochester St., Akron, with Pastor Thomas Craig officiat-

ing. Burial will be in the Akron Cemetery. Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at Hartzler Funeral Home, 305 W. Rochester St., Akron.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the Cardinal Center. Family and friends may share a memory or send an online condolence at www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com.

Rochester Sentinel
April 8, 2019

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Times Union April 8, 2019