



## Eleanor French

August 17, 1920 - February 3, 2010

Aug. 17, 1920 - Feb. 2, 2010

Eleanor Betty French was born Aug. 17, 1920, on her Grandfather Woodward's homestead farm near Liberty, Neb.

She obtained her grammar school education in a one-room school containing eight grades of students. She graduated from Lewiston High School at age 16. Passing the qualifying teacher's training courses in her final two years of school, she taught in the rural community the year following graduation. She was a member of the Pleasant Hill Christian Church.

Due to her father's failing health, her family moved to Dayton in 1938, where she was employed at the Wells Lamont Glove Factory.

On Valentine's Day 1942, she married Lester French in Tacoma, Wash., while he was on an eight-hour pass from Fort Lewis, where he was stationed. While Lester was overseas in the African and European campaigns of World War II, Betty worked as manager of the Safeway store in McMinnville until his discharge and return in 1945.

In later years, Betty worked for the Oregon State System of Higher Education. After working there more than 25 years, she retired as payroll supervisor.

During those years, she was active in the Oregon State Employees Association, where she was at various times secretary, treasurer and president of the local chapter. She was also the state director of membership for two terms.

She was a constant partner to Lester, and shared in their additional work-

related activities, such as helping build two mobile home courts and buying houses to remodel and use as rentals. They traveled extensively in their motor home, and from 1982 to 1998 spent winters in Apache Junction, Ariz., where they not only enjoyed the warm climate but the many friends they had there. Betty and Lester were married for 56 years when he passed in 1998.

Betty spent the last 10 years in Hillsboro with her pet Chihuahua and bird companions. She continued to be the constant helper to all who surrounded her.

Betty was a devoted mother to her two daughters, and her life evolved with family as her priority. She was a loving grandmother to her grandchildren, with whom she was very close. They all looked forward to their summer coastal camping trips together.

Her hobbies included sewing, craft-work, playing the electronic keyboard, and oil painting. She enjoyed writing and composing poems, and authored a book pertaining to her life and her early days in Nebraska, including enduring the years of the great national Depression and drought, and later years of marriage and raising the children.

She touched many people's lives, and will be missed and lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by Lester in 1998; an older brother, LaVergne, in 1985; and her older sister, Margaret Veach, in 2008. She is survived by her daughters, Sheryl Burchett of Philomath and husband, Bill, and Marlene Lieb and husband, Jim, of Hillsboro; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandkids; her younger sister, Patty Trammell of East Wenatchee, Wash.; and nine nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Arthritis Foundation or the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at McHenry Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Twin Oaks Memorial Park.