

Iris Florence Laura Upward, age 90, of Arapahoe, Nebraska, passed away Thursday, January 26, 2017, at Good Samaritan Society Care Home in Arapahoe, Nebraska. She was born on October 15, 1926, to William A. and Evelyn (Crouch) Fudge in Leicester, England.

She received her education at Norborough Girl's School in Leicester. With the advent of WW II in Europe, the United States deployed Airmen to England. This is how Iris met Wayne Upward who was serving in the Army Airforce 30 miles away from Leicester. Iris and Wayne were married on July 1, 1944, at the Church of the Martyrs in Leicester. They were married for 57 years.

Iris's first glimpse of America occurred when she arrived in New York Harbor with many other war brides coming to make their homes in a new country. Wayne, who had returned to the US with his unit, drove to New York to meet his bride. They traveled to Arapahoe, where they made their lifelong home. To this union were born three children, Elizabeth, Robert and John. Iris enjoyed life in Arapahoe and was active in Music Club, Bridge Club and numerous other activities. In McCook, NE, on January 29, 1951, Iris stood proudly to pledge her allegiance to her new country as she became a citizen of the United States of America.

In 1973 Iris became the Deputy County Treasurer of Furnas County until her retirement in 1985.

During her retirement years, she began making and hand quilting quilts, a hobby that would bring joy to her and others for many years. She was a member of Friendship Quilters' Club where she enjoyed friendships with others who shared her passion for quilting. When she could no longer quilt due to Macular Degeneration, she began walking every day to fill some of her time. She was a presence in the neighborhood where she stopped to pass the time with one person or another as she enjoyed her stroll. She was also a regular at the Senior Center for lunch and loved the companionship it provided.

Iris was a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where she was a member of the Guild and taught Wednesday School each week for many years. Iris was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Wayne, her parents, parents-in-law, a sister-in-law and a brother-in-law.

Those left to mourn her passing include her children: Elizabeth (David) Hendricks of Arapahoe, NE.; Robert (Stormie) Upward of La Grande, Oregon; and John (Pam) Upward of Fr. Worth, Texas. Eight Grandchildren: Timothy, Jonathan, and Stephen Hendricks; Matt and Jeff Upward and Tiffany Rollins; Christopher and Noah Upward; 17 Great Grandchildren plus #18 on the way; her beloved sister, Pansy Medcalf of Leicester, England; two sisters-in-law, Wyoma Andrews and Maureen Newman; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Condolences or personal reflections can be left at wenburgfuneralhome.com

Viewing and visitation will be Friday, February 3, 2017 from 10 AM till 8 PM with family present from 4 PM to 6 PM, at the Wenburg Funeral Chapel, 652 Main St. Arapahoe, Nebraska. Funeral services will be Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 10:30 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Arapahoe, Nebraska with Rev. Karen Watson, officiating with casket being closed at the church. Interment will be at the Arapahoe Cemetery, Arapahoe, Nebraska. Memorial are suggested to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church Arapahoe, Ne; Hospice-Rural Med Home Care Resources P.O. Box 470, 211 West 14th Ave. Holdrege, Nebraska 68949. Wenburg Funeral Home of Arapahoe, Nebraska is in charge of the arrangements.