



Leora Maxine (Bea) Willey, age 87, of Arapahoe, Nebraska, died on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital, in Kearney, Nebraska with her family surrounding her. Bea was born by Hollinger, Nebraska on September 24, 1929 to Clyde Alford Martin and Doris Eliz (Inman) Cass.

She grew up near Beaver City and surrounding area. Her father Clyde did not like her name as a baby and held her up to a mirror and ask, "Who is that?", and she answered B-Baby. So her name from then on was Bea. She graduated as Valedictorian at Beaver City High School with the class of 1947.

Bea was united in marriage on August 27, 1947 at Norton, Kansas to W. Dean Willey. To this union three daughters were born, Roxy, Jacque, and Peg. After they married, Dean farmed and Bea taught country school for three years. They would farm and raised cattle on Dean's parents place south of Beaver City. In 1952, they purchased a farm 8 miles south of Hendley, NE on the Nebraska-Kansas line along the Sappa Creek. Bea milked the cow herd, first by hand and then by milking machine. Later on, the girls helped with the chores. They followed their girl's school activities throughout their school years. She was a hard worker and taught her daughters to do the same. They retired from farming in 1981 and started going south to Phan, Texas for the winter so they could play golf year round. After Dean died on June 29, 1989, Bea moved in September to Arapahoe while renting out the farm. She continued going south by herself for the winters until 2010 when she was 81 years.

Bea was active in the Arapahoe Golf Course, playing in many tournaments with her many friends. Bea enjoyed having coffee and putting puzzles together with her friends at the Arapahoe Senior Center. She enjoyed Bingo several nights a week and looked forward to weekly "Wild Women of Wednesday", who dine out together and play cards. She belonged to Hobby Club and Devizes Ladies Aid when she lived on the farm south of Hendley. She was baptized and member of the Wilsonville United Methodist Church and later transferred to the First United Methodist Church of Arapahoe. She enjoyed her many friends at golf, bingo, cards, coffee, working on puzzles, her 3 daughters, son-in-law's, and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Dean of 42 years, brother Don Cass, sister Bonnie Hand, sister-in-law Rose Cass, brother-in-law Buster Hand.

Bea is survived by her daughters: Roxy and husband Mike Lang of Wilsonville, Nebraska, Jacque and husband Mike Elwood of Hallam, Nebraska, Peg and husband John Ahlemeyer of Wilsonville, Nebraska, 9 grandchildren: Traci Jennings of Norton, Kansas, Sherri MacFee of Lincoln, Nebraska, Shane Elwood of Hickman, Nebraska, Jeff Ahlemeyer of Wilsonville, Nebraska, Lori Armstrong of Brule, Nebraska, Kurt Ahlemeyer of Omaha, Nebraska, Greg Ahlemeyer of Cambridge, Nebraska, Jeremy

Lang of Goodland, Kansas, and Nic Lang of Moore, Oklahoma and 27 Great Grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Condolences or personal reflections may be left at [wenburgfuneralhome.com](http://wenburgfuneralhome.com).

Viewing and visitation will be Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 10 AM till 8 PM at Wenburg Funeral Chapel, 652 Main Street, of Arapahoe, Nebraska with the family present from 6 PM to 8 PM. Funeral services are Friday, February 17, 2017 at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church of Arapahoe, Nebraska with Rev. Becky Saddler, officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Beaver City, Nebraska. Memorials are suggested to Arapahoe Senior Center, Arapahoe Golf Course or donor's choice. Wenburg Funeral Home of Arapahoe, Nebraska is in charge of the arrangements.