



Mary R. Graf, age 87, of Arapahoe, Nebraska, passed away peacefully, though unexpected, on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, at her home in Arapahoe, Nebraska. She was born and raised on the family farm south of Arapahoe on November 15, 1929, to Hubert and Hattie (Beeler) Mayer. She graduated from Arapahoe High School in 1947, then attended Creighton University in Omaha for one year and received a teaching certificate. Following this, Mary taught in a country schoolhouse near Beaver City, Nebraska. During this time she was introduced to Paul Graf from Orleans, Nebraska, who had returned from World War II. They were married May 24, 1951, and remained married until Paul's death on May 18, 1984. To this happy union three sons were born. Paul and Mary lived for two years on a farm near Beaver City. In 1953 they moved to a farm five miles north of Arapahoe where they lived and farmed together for 31 years. Following Paul's death Mary remained on the farm for twelve years, then moved to a house in Arapahoe

Mary was a life-long member of St. Germanus Catholic Church in Arapahoe. She was active in their Altar Society and supported the church in many ways. She was a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer for many years, supporting children under court supervision due to family problems. She was a volunteer at the Furnas-Gosper museum and a frequent visitor to residents at the Good Samaritan rest home. She enjoyed traveling to visit family and friends and to attend Elderhostels in many locations. She was active with the 101st Airborne Division Association and traveled with them on several trips, including to the Netherlands and Belgium to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Mary is survived by her sister, Martha (Mayer) Anderson of Elwood, and her sons and their families: Steve and Carmen Graf of Granger, Iowa; Gerald and Eloise Graf of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and Mark Graf and Linda Pasewalk of Emerson, Nebraska. She is also survived by three grandchildren (born to Gerald and Eloise) and their families: Benjamin and Robin Graf of Wake Forest, North Carolina, and their son Hudson; Kelsey (Graf) and Michael Echerd of Hickory, North Carolina, and their son Asher and daughter Elizabeth; and Jacob Graf of Lexington, South Carolina; also four stepgrandsons: Lance Lowe of Bluffton, South Carolina, Kevin Lowe of Arizona, Matt Hilker of Chicago, Illinois, and Nate Hilker of Lincoln, Nebraska. Her family will miss her kind heart, inquiring mind, strong values, quick smiles, and good memory!

Condolences or personal reflections can be left at wenburgfuneralhome.com. Viewing and visitation will be Sunday, July 2, 2017 from 1 PM till 5 PM at the Wenburg Funeral Chapel, 652 Main St. Arapahoe, Nebraska. Rosary will be Sunday, July 2, 2017 at 7 PM at St. Germanus Catholic Church and Funeral Mass will be Monday, July 3, 2017 at 10 AM at St. Germanus Catholic Church, Arapahoe, Nebraska with Father Kenneth Wehrs, officiating. Interment will be at the Arapahoe Cemetery, Arapahoe, Nebraska. Memorial are suggested to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine at Arapahoe, Nebraska. Wenburg Funeral Home of Arapahoe, Nebraska is in charge of the arrangements.