

Baker, Betty J.

Betty J. (Schlenker) Baker passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, at Stratford Nursing Home in Midland on Feb. 7, 2008.

She was born on Nov. 27, 1917 in Oskaloosa, Iowa to the late Bert and Eva (Turner) Schlenker. Betty and her husband Harold J. Baker were married on Dec. 21, 1935, he preceded her in death on June 17, 1999. They were married for 63 years and Betty was still wearing her wedding ring at the time of her passing.

In 1941 they moved to Michigan from Iowa, and in 1970 Harold and Betty moved to Caseville, where they lived (wintering in Mission, Texas) until Harold passed away. From 2000 on, Betty was a resident of Riverside Place in Midland, and leaves behind great memories, great friends, and lots of completed jigsaw puzzles.

Betty loved baseball, sewing, reading, cooking, snowmobiling, gardening, bird watching, and quilting. Over the years, Betty and Harold traveled extensively throughout the United States and walked through life appreciating its beauty and making friends wherever they went. Among other honors and notables, Harold and Betty were Charter members of the Caseville Eagles and the Thumb Sno-goers Club. She loved the fried perch dinner at the Sanford Lake Bar and Grill (only a small baked potato please and coleslaw, no cottage cheese, on the side).

Family members will miss taking her there on Friday nights and all will remember Betty's love of life and devotion to her family and friends. Family was extremely important to Harold and Betty, and we all have wonderful memories of family gatherings at their house in Caseville. Betty often spoke glowingly about cooking her delicious meals, which were the centerpiece of family events and we all miss her mashed potatoes and gravy and coleslaw.

Betty is survived by her three children, Betty May Freeland and her husband, Dale, of Shelby Township, Dale Baker and his wife, Betty, of Mio, and Joyce Fisher and her husband, Bob, of Midland. Betty was tremendously proud of her 7 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Betty was preceded in death by her sister, Wilma Fleener.

A celebration of Betty's life will be conducted at 3 p.m. today, Feb. 11, 2008 at the Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon, with the Rev. John Britt officiating. Burial followed in Caseville Township Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. today in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please take someone you love out for a fried perch dinner. Betty would have wanted it that way.