

Smith-Stahlbaum, Lorena M.

Lorena M. Smith Stahlbaum, 90, of Holiday, Florida and formerly of Bad Axe, the beloved matriarch of five living generations, died Thursday, February 24, 2005. Her 91st birthday would have been Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005. She was loving, sweet, beautiful, kind, talented, exceptional, and a real lady. She will be dearly missed by loving family, old friends, and anyone privileged to have known her. She was of the Episcopalian Christian faith and last direct family of her generation. Born and raised in Bad Axe, she graduated from Bad Axe High School and was in drama, chorus, and rifle club, earning the expert sharpshooter level. Recently she still corresponded with several classmates. On May 17, 1934, Lorena married her high school sweetheart, Fred, and moved to New Jersey, raising their two children in Matawan, New Jersey. She worked for Avon and the Matawan Bank before moving to Newark, New Jersey, where she worked for 16 years in the personnel and auditing departments of Sears. She retired from Sears in 1972 when Fred retired after 40 years at Prudential Insurance Company. They then moved to Holiday, Florida. Lorena was an excellent homemaker, seamstress, gardener, bead crafter, and an avid reader of five novels a week until recently. She was very quick, bright, and alert all her life. She also still reconciled her own banking statements. She had refinished furniture too. Although widowed, she cooked balanced, healthy meals every day. She was quite a lady. She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred W. Stahlbaum, in 1981; her daughter's infant son, Kent William, in 1964; her six siblings and all but one of their spouses. Lorena leaves four living generations to cherish her including three great-grandchildren, four grandchildren and one spouse through her son, Fred T. Stahlbaum and his wife, Barbara, of Lakewood, New Jersey; three great-great-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two grandchildren and one spouse through her daughter, Marilynne Stahlbaum, of Pine Beach, New Jersey. She also leaves her dear sister-in-law, Mrs. Jean M.R. Smith, of Ann Arbor, many nieces and a nephew and their families, and many dear family friends. There were no services at Lorena's request. In lieu of flowers and for one unfulfilled hope (for research and cures for rare light disorders, as inherited by her daughter, Marilynne), remembrance gifts for Lorena may be sent to the Canadian Porphyria Foundation, P.O. Box 1206, Neepawa, MB ROJ1H0, Canada, or by phone at (866) 476-2081. Letters may be sent to Sunny Stahlbaum, Pine Beach, New Jersey 08741. Thank you for caring for and remembering Lorena, our newest angel.