

Maureen E. Ford, 97, of North Branch, died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012, at home in the loving care of her family.

She was born on Feb. 9, 1915, in Burnside Township, the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth (Doherty) Martus. On June 15, 1940, she married Arnold Ford at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burnside. He preceded her in death.

Maureen grew up in the Burnside area and attended North Branch High School. She earned her degree in Ypsilanti Normal and taught at the Bentley one room school house. Maureen helped her husband on their farm, while raising her large family. Maureen was a very active member of Ss. Peter and Paul Church. She was the Grand Marshal for the July 4th Parade in North Branch. Maureen was an avid Detroit Tigers fan. Maureen enjoyed china painting and oil painting. She touched many lives with her volunteer work at the North Branch Elementary School, The Lapeer County Citizen Probation Council, St. Mary's and Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Churches, North Branch Thrift Shop, and helping her family, friends, and neighbors when she was needed.

Maureen will be missed by family and many friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Arleen (John) Allison of Kalamazoo, Joane (Kirk) McCall of Owosso, Florence (Lee) Elston of Brown City, Louise (Don) Mennel of Fostoria, Ohio, and Delores (Roger) Heinrich of Saginaw; sons, Don (Pamela) of Tecumseh, Duane (Susanne) of Peck, Marvin (Pat) of Brown City and Eugene (Debra) of Brown City; daughter-in-law, Marge Halifax of Harbor Beach; sister, Irene Bartz of Livonia; sister-in-law, Dorothy Martus of Brown City; 26 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold; son, Kenneth; granddaughters, Jenifer Benedict and Amelia Peak; sisters, Margaret French and Dorothy Schultz; brothers, Wilfrid Martus, Edwin Martus and Robert Martus,

Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 2, with Father Richard Trembl officiating. A private burial will take place at a later date.

Visitation will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31, and from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1, with a Scripture Service at 7 p.m. at the Blackburn Chapel-Martin Funeral Home. Maureen will lie in state from 10 a.m. until the time of the Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Church.

Memorials may be made in Maureen's name to United Hospice, Ss. Peter & Paul Church or charity of your choice.