

JUDITH ARLENE DeGROW 1927 - 1995



Judith Arlene (Hast) DeGrow, 67 of Eaton Rapids, a former Pigeon businesswoman, passed away Saturday, Jan. 7 at her home with her family by her side, after a long illness.

She was born in Venice, FL on March 27, 1927, daughter of the late Harry and Jean (Allen) Hast. She moved to Beach, where she spent her adolescent years prior to moving to Pigeon in 1934.

She was a 1944 graduate of Pigeon High School. She was united in marriage to Alex DeGrow on Aug. 25, 1946 at the Pigeon United Methodist Church.

During her 50 years in Pigeon, Mrs. DeGrow was well-known for her hospitality in hosting over 150 foreign students, many of whom she and her husband visited in 1963. She was also successful as a local businesswoman, running the family business - the Ben Franklin Store - when her husband was elected to the Michigan Senate. Mrs. DeGrow was later honored as being elected one of the first women presidents of the local chamber of commerce. While in Pigeon, she was an active member of First United Methodist Church.

In 1984 Mr. and Mrs. DeGrow moved to Eaton Rapids to be closer to their children and grandchildren, to whom she was devoted, her husband says.

Mrs. DeGrow is survived by her husband Alex, two sons, David (Dabbi) DeGrow of Freeland and Michael (Katherine) DeGrow of Eaton Rapids; one daughter Jane (Edward Shotwell) DeGrow of Eaton Rapids, six grandchildren, Dawn, Jeff, Alexa and Aaron DeGrow, David DeGrow Shotwell and Amy Plumstead; a great-grandson, Adam Plumstead, one brother, H. Dryden (Joann) Hast of Big Rapids and a niece, Jean Zimmerman, also of Big Rapids.

A Memorial Service was set for Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Storer Funeral Home, Eaton Rapids, with Rev. Tom Evans officiating.

The family will receive friends and relatives in Pigeon on Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 2 to 6 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Meyerbach-Bustillos Funeral Home, with services on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Pigeon. The Rev. Willard King will officiate, with a eulogy delivered by a long-time family friend, DeVere Sturm. Interment will be at Grandview Cemetery, Pigeon.

Memorials may be contributed to the Community Heritage Foundation, 902 Reburn St., Eaton Rapids, MI 49827.