



Elsie Katherine McDonald (Widrig)

January 17, 1921 - October 22, 2024

Elsie Widrig McDonald, a long-time resident of Tehama County, passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Family was very important to her and she enjoyed visiting with her brothers and sisters and their families. She was especially close to her grandson and granddaughter. Elsie Katherine Widrig McDonald was born January 17, 1921 in Rockford, Washington to Charles Widrig, and Catharina Franz Widrig. She was the second to the youngest of nine children. In 1925 she moved with her family to Corning where she and all of her siblings helped out in the family orchards and gardens. Elsie attended elementary school and high school in Corning graduating in 1939. She then attended Sacramento City College graduating with a major in merchandising and a minor in interior design. While attending college she was active in several campus organizations. During World War II she worked for the Army Corp of Engineers in Sacramento and then in San Francisco she was employed by Southern Pacific Railroad handling troop transport orders the Armed Forces. She married Lewis (Mac)McDonald in 1943 at the Park-Presidio Methodist church in San Francisco. They moved to the El Camino where her husband's family had a hatchery and eventually a poultry ranch. While living on the El Camino Elsie and Mac had three daughters, Diane, Donna and Cathy and supported them in all their youth activities, including 4-H and the Order of the Rainbow for Girls as Elsie was a member of Eastern Star. While living on the El Camino the family attended the El Camino Methodist Church. In 1962 the family moved to Corning where Elsie became the Branch Librarian at the Corning Library. She also helped her daughter, Donna, in her flower shop, Dontra's. She attended the Corning Presbyterian Church and served as a deacon in the church. In 2004, upon the death of Mac after 61 years of marriage, she and Donna moved to Red Bluff. When Donna became owner of Flower Boutique and Gifts in Red Bluff Elsie occasionally helped out in the shop. Eventually Elsie and Diane began dividing their time between the Red Bluff Presbyterian and the Corning Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her three daughters, Diane McDonald, Donna Blanton, and Cathy McDonald, grandson Brent Smith (Colleen), granddaughter Traycee Green, nieces Judy Woods, Carla Merica, Bobi Jean Childress, nephews David Woods (Carolyn), John Glick (Linda), Gary Glick (Sandy) and Doug Widrig, and many great nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held Friday, Nov. 1 at the Corning Presbyterian Church, 471 Marguerite Ave., Corning

at 11 am. Donations may be made to the Corning Friends of the Library at the Corning Library, 740 3rd Street Corning, CA 96021

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hill Cemetery

4470 Oren Avenue
Corning, CA 96201
(530) 824-2255

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

First United Presbyterian Church
471 Marguerite Ave
Corning, CA 96021

Celebration of Life Luncheon

NOV 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

First United Presbyterian Church
471 Marguerite Ave
Corning, CA 96021