

Eileen M. *Rich Soukup* Kukuk

May 25, 1921 – August 29, 2005

Eileen Marie Anne Kukuk, 84, of Sioux Falls, SD, died Monday, August 29, 2005, at Covington Heights Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

Eileen Rich was born May 25, 1921, to Ernest and Louise (Steineke) Rich. She was born and raised in Sioux Falls, SD, attending the South Dakota School for the Deaf. She graduated in 1941 and was very involved in student activities at the school, serving as president of the Literacy Club.



She moved to Washington, D.C., where she met and married Preston Newton. Eileen later returned to South Dakota and married Benjamin J. Soukup, Sr., in 1949. They raised four children and farmed in the Wagner area, but later moved to Mitchell, then to Sioux Falls. Benjamin, Sr., passed away in 1964.

She married Lester Kukuk in 1969, and the couple made their home in Huron, SD. After their retirement, they returned to Sioux Falls. Lester passed away in 1997.

Eileen loved the Lord, her family and helping others. From 1975 to 2003, she was an adult foster care provider, taking care of elderly adults in her home.

She loved signing hymns, playing cards and socializing at the Deaf Community Center. She was involved in numerous deaf-related organizations, including the National Fraternity Society of the Deaf Chapter 74, the South Dakota Association of the Deaf, Deaf Seniors of South Dakota, the South Dakota Anglers and the Ladies Style Club. She was also actively involved as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf.



Survivors included her daughter, Judy Altstriel; sons, Benjamin (Monica) Soukup and David (Susan) Soukup, all of Sioux Falls, SD; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one sister, Marjorie McLeod of Sioux Falls.

Eileen was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands, Benjamin Soukup, Sr., and Lester Kukuk; two brothers, Robert and Fred Rich; and her daughter, Debbie.

Funeral services were held on September 1, 2005, at Faith Lutheran Church.

The family of Eileen expressed their thanks for the support and presence of those attending. An invitation was extended to join them at Faith Lutheran Church for refreshments and fellowship following the committal service.