

Dolores Marie (Penning) Burggraff

January 4, 1925 – April 17, 2016



Dolores M. Burggraff, 91, of Egan, South Dakota, passed away on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at Riverview Healthcare Community in Flandreau.

Dolores Marie Penning was born January 4, 1925, in Dell Rapids, South Dakota, to Nicholas and Elizabeth (Kirpes) Penning. She graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in Dell Rapids and earned a degree in education from General Beadle State Teachers College (now Dakota State University).

Dolores began her teaching career in Monroe and later taught at the South Dakota School for the Deaf from 1945 to 1954, inspired by her brother Nick, who was a student there. Education remained central to her life and service.

She had a love for old-time music and polka dancing, and it was through dancing at the Arkota Ballroom in Sioux Falls that she met her future husband, Henry Burggraff. They were married on June 2, 1954, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dell Rapids and made their home near Egan, where they raised eight children and shared 61 years of marriage.

A dedicated community leader, Dolores served as president of the Egan PTA and as a long-time member and president of the Egan School Board. Her Catholic faith guided her life and service. She was an active member of Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Flandreau, where she served as Director of Religious Education for the CCD program and led the Christmas Tableau presentations. Dolores was also a member of Court Our Lady of Peace Catholic Daughters, serving several terms as Regent. She was known for her love of music, holiday decorating, volunteering at Riverview Manor, organizing a resident rhythm band, and for her homemade bread shared generously with family and friends.



Dolores Penning (believed to be standing at front left) in 1950 SDSD Yearbook.



She is survived by her husband, Henry Burggraff; eight children, 21 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and eight siblings.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Flandreau, with burial in the church cemetery.