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Kleppinger Funeral Home

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Opal Maxine Russell Brandon

GLASCO----Opal Maxine Russell Brandon, passed away Sunday April 2nd at the MCHHS in Beloit, with her daughter at her side.

Opal was born Feb. 11, 1926 to Nora Hoard Russell and John Russell. She was born in Western Kansas, and grew to womanhood in Randall, KS, and attended school there. She was the sixth of seven children, and all preceded her in death.

She went to California to help with her brother's wife and son, as another son was on the way. While there she met and married the love of her life. She married Richard Brandon on Dec. 13, 1942 in San Bernadine, California. They were married 65 years before his passing. To this union 2 children were born, Thelma and Michael.

Opal was a member of the Church of Christ, in Cave City, Arkansas, VFW Auxiliary-Beloit, and American Legion Auxiliary – Jewell. Opal was both Mother and Father to her children during the week, as her husband followed construction work, and was gone all week, in the summer the family joined him, and remained until school started. Opal and Richard enjoyed being together, and when health allowed, they went somewhere daily, and ate lunch out, they were almost inseparable.

They enjoyed attending the sporting events, their grandchildren were in, and their grandsons Jeff and Brad loved going to Grama's and Papal's house. They spent every harvest with them; while their mother helped their dad at the elevator...It was always a fun time for all 4 of them. In later years, they moved to Jewell to the Jewell Apartments, so they could be closer to their daughter, who cared for them, and made sure they had what they needed.

When Richard passed, Opal continued to live in the apartments, and Thelma continued to check on her daily, making sure she had what she needed to stay comfortable, but failing health, helped make the decision to move her to RCC in the Beloit Hospital, later she was moved to Glasco, KS to the Nicol Home in April of 2016. She loved the nurses, and they would come in her room to visit, and she would tell them about her life, many times just sitting at the nurses' station and visiting with whomever was there, was a joy to her. Her daughter, Thelma went to spend time with her at least once a week, and ate lunch with her, which Opal always enjoyed having her there, her room was always updated with photos of her family. She enjoyed her visits from her grandchildren, and Thelma bringing her new clothes, going to Delphos to get her hair done every week, and the nurses doing her nails.

In the early morning hours, of April 1st, the nurses checked on her, and she was unresponsive, so she was transported to MCHHS, where she passed on Sunday from a massive stroke. Her daughter Thelma and Thelma's friend Mary Little, formerly of Formoso, were at her side.

She was preceded in death by her husband Richard, her parents, all her siblings, Lloyd, Clifford, Henry, Milton, Irene Goff, and Phyllis Wilson.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her daughter Thelma (Frank) Shelton of Jewell, her son Michael (Donna) Brandon of Mankato. Also her grandchildren, Jeff Shelton (Debra Staab) of Glen Elder, KS, and Brad (Tina) Shelton of Tonganoxie, and Angela Brandon of Mankato; her great-grandchildren, Kylea (Nathan) Strasburg of Phillipsburg, Chase (Taylor Staab) Shelton of Hutchinson, and Baby K, due to be born in June, Brett (Jessica Summers) Shelton of Manhattan, and McKinna Shelton of Manhattan, and Taya Freeman of Topeka. She will truly be missed by her daughter, grandkids and other family members.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Wed. eve, April 5th at the funeral home. The celebration of her life will be Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 10:00 am. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Jewell. Kleppinger Funeral Home, Jewell is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to the family to be designated later.