

Mary Frances Isely Hermsmeier

January 4, 1923—December 21, 2007



Mary Frances Isely Hermsmeier went to be with her Lord and Savior on December 21, 2007.

Mary Frances was born and spent her childhood in Aintab, Turkey, where her parents were Congregational missionaries. She began high school at the American Community School in Beirut, returned to the U.S. at the onset of World War II under threat of U-boat attack, and graduated from Newton High School in Massachusetts.

Mary received her home economics degree from Kansas State College to please her father and then received her nursing education degree from the University of Minnesota to please herself. In Minneapolis, she met and married Lee Hermsmeier on March 19, 1949.

Mary and Lee began their married life in Ames, Iowa and Rochester, Minnesota, where they brought three sons into the world. In 1957, they moved to Morris, Minnesota, where Mary was very active in the community and at First Lutheran Church.

In 1968, Mary and Lee moved to Brawley, California, where Mary continued to be active in the community and at Brawley Methodist Church. She worked as a school nurse for over 16 years in the Brawley Elementary School District. When she and Lee retired, they traveled over much of the world, including a visit to her childhood home in Turkey.

Mary was kind and happy throughout her life, even as she battled Alzheimer's disease over the last 10 years. She spent her last four years near her son Bruce in La Mesa, California.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Merrill and Mildred Isely, her husband of 54 years, Lee Hermsmeier, and her sister Caroline Isely Sayre. Survivors include her sons Glen (Tina) Hermsmeier of San Marcos, Texas, Bruce (Dorcus) Hermsmeier of La Mesa, California, and Mark (Mung-Ling) Hermsmeier of Somerville, New Jersey, her brother William (Doris) Isely of Franklin, North Carolina, and her granddaughter Rebekah Hermsmeier (age 11) of La Mesa, California.

Private services were held on January 4, 2008, and she was interred at Singing Hills Memorial Park in El Cajon, California.