

FRIEDA I. STEWART SHIRK

Frieda I. Stewart Shirk, 84, of Marysville, a lifetime resident of Union County, died Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2002, at The Gables at Green Pastures.

She retired in 1983 as dean of the College of Nursing at Capital University. She was the first woman to be appointed as a member of the board of trustees for The Ohio State University Hospitals board, serving from 1980 to 1985, and prior to her tenure at Capital, she was the associate director of the OSU School of Nursing. For 36 years, she held positions in nursing education, administration and research.

Though nursing schools in the 1940s and 1950s and prior years were located in and administered by hospitals, Shirk believed that preparation for nursing should be offered by colleges and universities. She felt that students could enroll in courses along with students in other fields and share in the same activities in social, academic and recreational clubs, broadening their education.

Throughout her career, she served on various boards and committees of The Ohio State University and on state and national organizations to help achieve this. She was the recipient of many awards for her work. Of particular significance and joy to her was an award from students campuswide for her contributions to their interests and an award for outstanding teaching from the faculty of the university.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in education with a major in nursing from The Ohio State University and a master of arts degree and doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City. A 1936 graduate of New California High School, she served in the Army Nurse Corps in North Africa, Italy and France during World War II.

She was a member of Shiloh Chapel Evangelical Friends Church and a former member of the Jerome United Methodist Church. A teacher of youth, she served on various church boards and committees and was the former director of Christian education at the Marysville Friends Church. After her retirement, she and her husband spent winter months in Naples, Fla.

She was born May 12, 1918, on a farm in Jerome Township to the late Clarence and Bessie R. Vermillion Stewart and was predeceased by two brothers, Woodrow and Carl "Burton" Stewart.

She is survived by her husband, Floyd H. Shirk whom she married June 30, 1960, in Jerome; a daughter, Donna R. Kinder of Mechanicsville, Va.; two sons, G. Houston (Linda) Shirk of Virginia Beach, VA., and Dennis D. (Cynthia) Shirk of Newark; two grandchildren, Douglas R. (Heather) Kinder of Mechanicsville and Darin R. (Heather) Kinder of Hoboken, N.J.; two great-grandchildren, Ashley and Jordan Kinder; a loving sister, Audrey B. Lawwell of Columbus; a brother-in-law, Don (Ruth) Shirk of Foster; and two nephews, Benjamin Lawwell and Richard Lawwell of Columbus.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Underwood Funeral Home. The Revs. Glenn Althouse and Ed Vinson will officiate and burial will be at Oakdale Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mildred E. Newton Fund at The Ohio State University or Shiloh Chapel Evangelical Friends Church in care of the funeral home.