



Ellen Keil First

May 1, 1924 - August 30, 2011

Ellen Marie Keil First, of Claverack, passed away August 30, 2011 surrounded by her devoted children.

She was born on May 1, 1924 to the late Gotlieb and Lydia (Kiel) Keil. She was a 1942 graduate of Hudson High School and a lifelong area resident.

Ellen was a homemaker and mother of four children. She married Walter C. First on June 13, 1943. Her main interest and pleasure was her family and she greatly enjoyed family gatherings.

She is survived by three children, William First (Mary), Barbara "Bobbi" First Bush (Larry Walker), and Jeffrey First (Brenda); her grandchildren, Lisa First Small (Andrew), William First, Jr. (Stephanie), Brian First (Trisha), Jennifer First, Matthew Bush (Clare), Christian Bush (Amity), Crystal First Nabozny (Mathew), and Meghan First, and her great-grandchildren, Kaylee Myint, Jordan Bonetsky, Danny First, Sage and Samantha First, Caroline and Matthew Small, Noah Warfield, Brooklyn Nabozny, Mason First, and Dahlia Bush. Also surviving are her sister, Phyllis Keil (Chet) Havlik (George), a sister-in-law, Joyce Keil, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband, Walter C. First, her son, Donald "Moe" First, her brother, Chester Keil, a sister, Murial Keil, and a great-granddaughter, Rylee First.

As a young woman, Ellen devoted her time doing volunteer work. She was the chairman of the Columbia County Fresh Air Fund and served as a host family for many underprivileged children from the city. She also served as the Chairman of the Red Cross Blood Donor Program and served on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Day Care Center. She volunteered at the Amtrak Station Snack Bar and at the Second Show Thrift Shop. She was a member of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Ladies Auxiliary and the Hudson Junior Service League. She was awarded "Woman of the Year" by the Hudson Jaycee's for her community service and volunteering

over the past year. Ellen was the owner and operator of the Olde Klaverrack Country Store and the Olde Klaverrack Craft Fairs.

Calling hours are 4-7 Saturday at the Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home.

Services will be held at 1 pm Sunday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Stuyvesant Falls Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Hudson Day Care Center or the Second Show Thrift Shop.