



## Mrs. Emma Ray

May 19, 1926 - July 25, 2011

Mrs. Emma “Jean” Ray, age 85, of Niota, died at NHC Healthcare in Athens, TN, on Monday July 25, 2011. Born on May 19, 1926, in Detroit, MI. A registered nurse, Jean worked at the Sweetwater Nursing Home as Director of Nursing until retiring in 1998. Jean was a member of Union Grove Baptist Church and participated in the choir. She will especially be remembered for her beautiful singing voice. She always had a song to sing about everything. She spent each day in Bible study, and caring for friends. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Earl Cecil Ray, her father: John Riley Blankenship, mother: Evilena, brothers: John and Al Blankenship, and sisters: Frances Blankenship, and Kathleen Hoyt. Survivors include 3 sons and 2 daughters-in-laws: Todd and Jody Ray, of Ann Arbor MI, John Ray, of Houston, TX, and Rodger and Lorna Ray, of Niota. She has remaining six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and sister-in-law: Charlotte Blankenship, of Knoxville, TN. The family will receive friends on Thursday July 28, 2011 from 12:00 noon until 2:00P.M. at Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, with the funeral service to follow at 2:00P.M. in Kyker’s Chapel with Rev. Kenneth Elkens officiating. Interment to follow in the Foster Cemetery in Niota. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ All of my aunts on both sides have my parents families have always meant a great deal to me. Each in their own way has had a special place in my heart. Aunt Jean not just for singing. When I was young my parents were in an auto accident and Aunt Jean cared for us during their recovery. She also hosted many family picnics, packed with baseball games, horse rides, tractor rides and fun for the family at their farm in Michigan. I will miss her as many will. She always called me, Judy Ann and alway greeted me with love. My condolences to the rest of the family.

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**Judy Landino** - July 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM