

## Lily Anastasi, 68

June 25, 1936 - July 17, 2004

**HARLAN** – Lily Monica Anastasi was born June 25, 1936, in Zulte, Belgium. She was the youngest child of Henri and Maria (Ragole) Willemyns. She attended grade school in Belgium. At the age of 10, both of Lily's parents died. Lily lived in Belgium until she was 12 years old, at which time she and her big sister, Mariette, set sail by themselves to this foreign land of the United States. They landed on Ellis Island, NY, not knowing anyone and not able to speak the language. They made their way to Omaha, NE, where they were able to live with an aunt and uncle for a few years. At the young age of 16, Lily was attending high school, was a good student, and worked at a drug store to support herself. She graduated from Cathedral High School in Omaha, NE, in 1954. At the age of 16, she met a farmer, Earl Anastasi, who was 14 years her senior.



They were married June 25, 1955, on Lily's 19th birthday. This city girl became a farmer's wife and adjusted to life on the farm where she worked hard to help with whatever needed to be done around the farm. She worked at the Iowa Liquor Store for 10 years after her girls were older, where she received the Employee of the Month Award in 1983. Lily was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan and volunteered there often whether it was helping to cut coupons or put together the church bulletin. Lily died July 17, 2004, at her home in Harlan at age 68 years and 22 days of cancer.

In addition to her parents, Lily was preceded in death by a son, James; and her brother, Alfred. Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Earl of Harlan; her youngest daughter, Pam (Tom) Stessman of Harlan, and her oldest daughter, Kim (Jeff) Stevenson of Prospect Heights, IL; her grandchildren, Matthew and Megan Lily Stessman and Ryan, Sean and Kyle Stevenson; her brother, Robert Willemyns (Rose) of Omaha, NE; her sister, Mariette Wageman of Westphalia; niece, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held July 20, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. John Dorton celebrant. Casket bearers were John Willemyns, Russ Ranniger, Dwight Bierbaum, Ryan Stevenson, Adam Daeges and Sean Stevenson. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.