

## Alma Bissen, 78

Feb. 26, 1931 - May 13, 2009

**HARLAN** — Alma Frances Bissen, daughter of Gilbert and Lidwina (Eisterhold) Rau, was born on February 26, 1931, on a farm near Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia and graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in Portsmouth.

November 16, 1949, Alma was united in marriage to Jerry Kramer at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Six children were born to this union of forty-two years: Sandy, Debbie, John, Larry, Geralyn, and Tami. After their wedding, Alma and Jerry farmed for several years in Southwest Iowa before moving into Harlan in 1965 where Alma worked as a part-time custodian for Harlan Community Schools, the United Methodist Church, and St. Michael's Catholic Church and Rectory. She retired in 2000.

February 19, 1999, Alma was united in marriage to Paul Bissen at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. After their wedding, Alma and Paul made their home in Harlan. Alma was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. She enjoyed gardening, bowling, playing cards and bingo, taking trips to the casinos and spending time with her very large family. She had an amazing work ethic, a very green thumb, and an incredible ability to make people smile and laugh in any situation. When Alma walked into a room, it was suddenly brighter because you knew she was going to say something funny even if she didn't mean to. Alma died on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, having attained the age of seventy-eight years, two months, and seventeen days.

Alma is preceded in death by her parents; her first husband Jerry; her daughter Debbie Rounds; her two brothers Mike and Leo; her two sisters Marie "Mamie" Grote and Sr. M. Lita Veronica Rau, OSF and John's domestic partner Mae Parks. She is survived by her husband Paul Bissen of Harlan, Iowa; her children: Sandy and her husband Dave Hopper of Carroll; John Kramer of Easton, KS; Larry Kramer of Harlan; Geralyn Kramer of Mason City; Tami and her husband Alan Meiners of Dedham; her stepdaughters Tracy Bissen and her friend Eddie Walker of Bruce, FL and Terry Thayer and her husband Michael of Jacksonville, FL; thirteen grandchildren: Joey Hansen and his wife Jenny; Michelle Hansen; Jeremy Rounds and his wife Angie; Mark Rounds; Sarah Rounds; Lynzie Rounds; Kyle Kramer; Grant, Will, and Lydia Meiners; Christopher Duncan; and Taylor and Zach Thayer; nine great-grandchildren; her son-in-law Robert Rounds; her siblings: Dorothy Gaul of Earling; Leo Rau and his wife Jane of Omaha, NE; Zita Bruck of Harlan; Jeanette and her husband Richard Mikels of Portsmouth; Martha Mumm of Harlan; Verla and her husband Charles Mumm of Earling; Patricia and her husband Gordon Kuehler of Pierce, NE; Gilbert Rau, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann of Cheyenne, WY; and Judy and her husband Richard Jones of Omaha; Mervin and her husband Nels Nelson of Texas; nieces; nephews; other family members and many friends.



*Pauley*

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Rev. Bob Hoefler celebrating the 11:00 AM service. Interment was held at the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan with Don Kramer, Dennis Mumm, Mike Mumm, Gary Kramer, Wayne Bruck, and Frank Heese serving as casket bearers.

*Jones*  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY  
(712) 755-3135 • (800) 831-6805  
www.pauleyjones.com  
Baldwin at 9th, Harlan, IA  
Also in Avoca & Walnut