

Rita Freml, 76

Sept. 21, 1927 - Feb. 25, 2004

DENISON – Rita Marie Freml was born on a farm in Cooper Township, Monona County, Sept. 21, 1927, the daughter of Nicholas William and Sarah Ann Uhl Zeiman. In 1940, they moved to a farm in Paradise Township in Crawford County before moving to Denison in 1946. She received her education at Mapleton Catholic School, Paradise County School and Denison High School. As a child growing up Rita helped on the Zeiman family farm and after high school was employed in various jobs in the area.

Jan. 7, 1953, Rita married Wesley Robert Freml at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison. They made their home on their farm south of Denison where their union was blessed with six sons, James, Thomas, Charles, Richard, Joseph and Gerry. Rita was a housewife. Wes and Rita retired from farming in 1985 and moved to their present home in Denison in 1995 where she had since resided. She was a longtime member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison where for over 20 years she served as funeral luncheon coordinator and for 20 plus years she was involved with Meals On Wheels, delivering meals to area shut-ins. Rita died Feb. 25, 2004, at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison, at age 76 years, five months and four days.

Those preceding her in death include her parents, Nicholas and Sarah Zeiman; her brother, Maurice Zeiman; and a grandson, Chad Freml. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Wesley Freml of Denison; six sons and their wives, James (Sherri) Freml of Denison; Thomas (Karin) Freml of Creston; Charles (Susan) Freml of Glidden; Richard (Mary) Freml of Harlan; Joseph (Carolyn) Freml of Corning; and Gerry (Diane) Freml of Harlan; 19 grandchildren; five sisters and four brothers, Lucille Uhl of Mapleton; Gilbert Zeiman of Denison; Sister Marci Zeiman of Tucson, AZ; Mary (Martin) Lally of Denison; Ann (Dewey) Whited of Hillsboro, OR; Sister Maria Zeiman of Clinton; Joseph Zeiman (Jan) of Garden Grove, CA; Raymond Zeiman (Bev) of Denver, CO; and Robert Zeiman of Denison; three sisters-in-law, Inez Rostermundt of Manilla; Anita (Clifford) Cook of Wall Lake; and Marjorie Harlow of Denison; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 28, 2004, at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, with Father Edward Murray celebrant. Casket bearers were Luke, Brett, Joel, Blake, Karl and Jared Freml. Burial was in the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Cemetery in Denison. The Pfannebecker Funeral Home in Denison, in charge of arrangements.