

Rita M. Katzer, 67

Sept. 27, 1933 - Nov. 28, 2000

OMAHA - Rita Mary Katzer was born Sept. 27, 1933, to Alma (Pauley) and John J. Katzer on a farm near Panama. She was baptized at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. She later celebrated her first communion and confirmation at St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. She attended school at St. Mary's School in Portsmouth from 1946 to 1950, and when her family moved to Defiance, she graduated from St. Paul's High School with the class of 1951. After high school, she was employed at the Defiance State Bank. She then became a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, until 1962, when she moved to Des Moines. While living in Des Moines, she was head of the savings department at the Highland Park Bank and was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church for several years. One of Rita's greatest accomplishments was attaining her Bachelor of Arts degree from Iowa State University in 1976. She did not begin her pursuits for higher education until she was in her late thirties completing her degree at the age of 42. Most recently, she was employed in the accounting office at University Hospital in Omaha, NE, where she became a member of St. Cecilia's Cathedral. She died Nov. 28, 2000, at her residence in Omaha, NE, at age 67 years, two months and one day.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Katzer. She is survived by her siblings, Eugene Katzer of Omaha, NE; Marge (Jim) Trieweller of Denison; Mary Fleming of Fountain Valley, CA; Roman Katzer of Atlantic; Ernest Katzer of Bennington, NE and Marvin Katzer of Brea, CA; three nieces and three nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 1, 2000, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant. Burial was in the St. Mary's Cemetery with Luke Freml, Doug Schmidt, Lance Freml, Chad Trieweller, James Freml and James Trieweller casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.