

Celestine "Sally" Kohles, 86

June 26, 1920 - March 26, 2007

PANAMA – Celestine "Sally" Kohles was born June 26, 1920, to George and Mary (Siemer) Arkfeld in Panama. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. She graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in Panama and spent one year in college in Atchison, KS.

Sally married Delbert Kohles June 18, 1941, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Eight children were born to this union: Gary, Karen, Carol, Jerome "Speed", Michael, Joe, Ron, and Jo Ann.

Following their wedding, the couple returned to Illinois until October 25, 1944, when Delbert was drafted into the United States Army. After his honorable discharge, Delbert accepted a job with Pauley Furniture and they relocated to Harlan for a short time before purchasing a café and tavern in Panama. The establishment, known as Kohles Café, kept Sally busy making homemade pies and dinners every day. Delbert and Sally operated the café until 1963 when they moved to San Bruno, CA, where Delbert was employed by the U.S. Postal Service. While living in California, Sally worked for Skyline Donut Shop in San Bruno and the Lake Merced Country Club in San Francisco before accepting a position at Skyline Community College in San Bruno. The couple returned to Iowa and made their home in Panama after Delbert's retirement in 1977. Sally then worked as a cook for the Gold Slipper in Duntlap until her retirement. In 2004, she became a resident of the Elm Crest Assisted Living facility in Harlan. She died March 26, 2007, at Myrtue Medical Center at age eighty-six years and nine months.

Sally was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Delbert, three brothers: Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, Vince Arkfeld, and Clem Arkfeld; and three sisters: Florence Ohlinger, Lucille Arkfeld, and Mary Arkfeld. She is survived by her children: Gary (Beverly) Kohles of Portsmouth; Karen (Alf) Wingert of Panama; Carol (Phil) Wegner of Panama; Jerome "Speed" (Connie) Kohles of Harlan; Michael (Janet) Kohles of Rancho Cordova, CA; Joe (Janet) Kohles of Panama; Ron (Meg) Kohles of Panama; and Jo Ann (Joseph "Jay") Townsend of Wawa, PA; thirty-one grandchildren; fifty-three great-grandchildren; two sisters: Rita (John) Kelley of Woodbine and Sylvia (Jerry) Bissen of Earling; and one brother George (Josephine) Arkfeld of Oceanside, CA; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 28, 2007, with Rev. John Dorton officiating at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Casket bearers were John Kohles, Dan Wingert, Jeff Kohles, David Kohles, Steve Wegner, Dennis Kohles, Robert Wegner, Joe Townsend, Marvin Kohles, Marvin Kohles, Glenn Wingert, Patrick Kohles, and John Townsend. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

