

Marcella Kwapiszeski, 80

Aug. 30, 1924 - Aug. 28, 2005

PORTSMOUTH— Marcella Louise (Cooney) Kwapiszeski, the daughter of Felix D. and Sarah "Sadie" Coleman Cooney, was born on a farm near Mayetta, KS Aug. 30, 1924. Marcella was baptized, received her First Holy Communion and was confirmed at St. Francis Xavier Church in Mayetta, KS. She attended Mayetta Grade School and High School, graduating with the class of 1942. She continued her education at St. Mary College at Leavenworth, KS and St. Louis University at St. Louis, MO, where she received a Masters of Social Work degree in 1948. For the next three years she worked as a social worker for Omaha Catholic Charities.



March 31, 1951, Marcella married Fred Kwapiszeski at her home parish in Mayetta, KS. After their marriage, they farmed south of Portsmouth. Together they raised four children, James, Robert, and twins Mark and Carmela. Marcella returned to social work at two intervals, 1955 to 1957 and 1968 to 1974 when she was employed at the Harrison County Social Services in Logan. They retired from farming in 1981, but continued to live on the farm. While living near Portsmouth, She was active in St. Mary's Parish and community activities. In 2000 Fred and Marcella moved to Harlan where they became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Fred died Aug. 31, 2002. In June of 2005, Marcella became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Community. She died Aug. 28, 2005 at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 80 years, 11 months and 29 days.

In addition to her parents, Marcella was preceded in death by her husband, Fred, of 51 years of marriage. She is survived by her children, James Kwapiszeski of Temeculah, CA, Robert Kwapiszeski of Omaha, NE, Mark Kay of Houston, TX, and Carmela (Dan) Jacobsen of Harlan; five grandchildren, Angela (Marty) Stein; Tina (Tim) Gorham; Keith, Madelyn and Olivia Kay; five great-grandchildren, Matthew and Hannah Stein; Alaina Jacobsen; Aleshia and Andria Gorham; brothers and sisters-in-law, H.J. Herbert (Rita) and Leonard Kwapiszeski (Kathy); Helen (Ray) Rennemeyer and Edna (William) Henderson; nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 30, 2005, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with Randy Bruck, Maurice Rennemeyer, Ken Leinen, Jim Crawford, Guyle Sonderman, and Tom Lefeber casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.