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Leona Leuck, 92

Oct. 31, 1912 - May 11, 2005



HARLAN — Leona Ellen Leuck, the twin daughter of William and Mary Hauptman Nilan, was born on a farm northeast of Shelby, Shelby County, Oct. 31, 1912. She was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca and confirmed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Walnut. She attended country school in Layton Township, Pottawattamie County. She attended Walnut High School through the ninth grade and the first half of tenth grade and then entered Harlan High School Jan. 12, 1929. She graduated from Harlan High School in 1931. She went on to teach country school in Lincoln Township.

Feb. 1, 1933, Leona married John J. Leuck at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Father Charles McAniff performing the ceremony. Two sons were born to this union. They farmed in Lincoln Township for 37 years until they retired to Harlan in February 1970. In May of 2000 she became a resident of Little Flower Haven. Then in March of 2001, she moved to assisted living at Elm Crest Retirement Community. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and a member of the Guild. Leona was also active in the Extension Service and was honored as the Rural Homemaker in May 1951 for Shelby County. Leona died May 11, 2005, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 92 years, six months and 11 days.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John, who died Jan. 3, 1981; her son, Charles, who died June 8, 2001, and her twin sister, Leora Book, who died Dec. 25, 1984. She is survived by her son, Jack Leuck (Joan) of Pekin, IL, and daughter-in-law, Betty Leuck of Harlan; eight grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 14, 2005, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Russ Leuck, Chris Hutchinson, Mark Lyle, Bruce Kenkel, Mark Ballinger, Jason Leuck, Lee Winton, and Patrick Leuck casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.