

Josephine Leslie, 95

July 22, 1920 - May 5, 2016

AVOCA — Josephine Thelma Gross Leslie was born southwest of Avoca on July 22, 1920. She was the daughter of William R. and Grace Ring Gross. She was one of four children in the family.

Josephine was united in marriage to James Leslie on April 14, 1941, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Venice, CA. They were the parents of four children: JoAnne, Jean, Judith, and James.

Josephine was a graduate of Avoca High School and of Drake University in Des Moines. She taught rural school for four years in Harrison and Pottawattamie Counties. She was a fifth grade teacher in the AvoHa School system for nineteen years, retiring in 1976. She was active in politics for a number of years serving as Pottawattamie County vice-chairman of the Democratic party for one term. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church; of the Ladies Association of the Avoca Country club; of Newton-Avoca Historical Society as a charter member; of Federated Women's Club of Avoca; and the Retired Teachers group. She and James enjoyed wintering in Arizona. Josephine passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan at age 95.

Josephine was preceded in death by her husband James, son James Robert, her parents, a granddaughter Katherine Hansen, two sisters, Beatrice Wise and Wilma Weinmann, and her brother Bernard Gross. She leaves to mourn her passing her daughters: JoAnne and her husband James Sweeney of Altus, OK; Jean and her husband Arlan Kuehn of South Sioux City, NE; and Judith and her husband Donald Willoughby of Sioux City; Thomas (Roseanne) Sweeney and family; Lori (Tim) Cavin and family; Michael Willoughby; Dave and Dan Kuehn and families; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; step-great-grandchildren; cousins, nephews; nieces other relatives and many friends.

A Rosary was held for Josephine on Sunday, May 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Family greeted friends following the Rosary until 8:00 p.m. at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca. A Mass of Christian Burial with Celebrant Father Thomas Dooley was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Avoca on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Josephine had chosen special songs for her service: "Only a Shadow", "Lead Us on Oh Lord", "Precious Lord", and "Somewhere my Love". Casket bearers were Mark Wise, Mike Willoughby, Paul Wise, Tom Sweeney, George Applegate and Nick Cavin. Josephine was laid to rest at Graceland Cemetery in Avoca.



Pauley Jones
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

(712) 755-3135 • (800) 831-6805

www.pauleyjones.com

Baldwin at 9th, Harlan, IA
1304 N. Sawmill Rd., Avoca, IA