

Vera N. Munchrath, 80

May 26, 1921 - March 12, 2002

KANSAS CITY, MO – Vera Neil Munchrath, daughter of Tony and Cecelia (Heese) Finken, was born May 26, 1921, in Earling. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Growing up, she attended St. Joseph's Catholic School until her graduation in 1939. Vera had eight brothers and sisters.

April 29, 1941, she married Delbert Munchrath. Six children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed right outside of Defiance, and raised livestock. In November 1954, they bought into the grocery business. They owned Munchrath Grocery in Defiance. Two years out of that time they also opened a small cafe called Hometown Cafe. Due to Vera's health, they closed the cafe. In May of 1999, they retired from the grocery business, then moved to Kansas City, MO to be closer to their two youngest daughters, Shelly and Mary. She was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of St. Katherine No. 266 of Earling, and also a member of the Defiance town council for several years. She was the first woman to ever be elected into the town council in Shelby County. She was also a member of the United Associated Grocers for many years. She was active in her community. She died March 12, 2002, at her residence in Kansas City, MO, at age 80 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tony and Cecelia Finken; her son, James; her brothers, Austin Finken and Sylvester (Tooty) Finken; and her sister, Irene Goeser. She is survived by her husband, Delbert; their children, Roger, Sheryl, Bill, Mary and Shelly, along with their families including 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; her brothers, Dennis Finken, Ivo Finken; sisters, Edith Schneider, Marie Ebert and Doris Schneider, along with their families; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 16, 2002, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with the Rev. Michael Berner celebrating. Burial was in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Defiance, with Todd Fallert, Nick Fallert, Scott Fallert, Matt Fallert, Adam Campell, Jim Munchrath, Brian Munchrath and Mark Munchrath casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

