

Ruth Murray, 74

Feb. 6, 1930 - May 14, 2004

WALNUT – Ruth Jean Murray, daughter of Albert and Ida Ruth (Meyer) Petersen, was born Feb. 6, 1930, at her parents' home south of Exira. She attended rural grade school near Exira, and later moved with her family to a farm near Walnut, where she attended, played basketball and graduated from Walnut High School with the class of 1948. She was baptized at the Atlantic Christian Church and later became a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut. After graduation, Ruth was employed at The Grain Exchange of Omaha, NE, for six years.

June 27, 1954, Ruth married John Vernon Murray at the Atlantic Christian Church in Atlantic. Together they were the parents of one son, Michael Vernon. While living in Walnut, she was employed at the Walnut State Bank and the Villager Restaurant. Ruth died at the Atlantic Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Atlantic, May 14, 2004, at age 74 years, three months and eight days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Robert and Dale Petersen; her brother-in-law, Merion Hays; and her niece, Cathy Swank. Ruth is survived by her husband, Vernon Murray of Walnut; her son, Michael Murray (Patty) of Munster, Germany; her grandson, Andrew "Drew" Murray of Georgia; her sisters, Maxine Hays and FloraBelle (Stewart) Hays, both of Atlantic; Charlotte (Ed) Swank of Harlan; her brother, LeRoy Petersen (Marilyn) of Winchester, KY; her sisters-in-law, Geraldine Petersen of Avoca and Dorthea Petersen of Atlantic; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 18, 2004, at the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut, with Rev. David O'Rourke and David Krueger officiating. Burial was in the Layton Township Cemetery, Walnut. Casket bearers were David Hays, Dennis Hays, Donnie Bauerkemper, Douglas Matthies, Tim Swank, Jim Petersen and Dannie Petersen. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.