

Lidwina C. Rau, 94

March 17, 1903 - March 10, 1998

PORTSMOUTH - Lidwina Catherine Rau, daughter of Frank and Dora (Richter) Eisterhold, was born March 17, 1903, at Rich Fountain, MO. She attended grade school at Rich Fountain. In 1920, Lidwina came to Iowa to keep house for her brothers, Tony and Louie, who farmed south of Defiance.

She met Gilbert Rau at a dance, and Nov. 27, 1923, she married Gilbert at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. To this union 15 children were born. After their marriage, they farmed near Westphalia until 1944, when they moved to a farm near Portsmouth. In 1955, they moved to a farm near Manilla, where they farmed until they retired in 1964. After their retirement, they moved to Portsmouth where they made their home. He died Dec. 23, 1985, and Lidwina continued to reside in Portsmouth. She is a member of St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, and a member of the Catholic Daughter of Americas Court of St. Katherine No. 266 of Earling and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She died March 10, 1998, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 94 years, 11 months and 21 days.



In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her daughters Marie Grote and Sr. Lita Rau O.S.F.; her son, Mike; four grandchildren; three great grandchildren; eight brothers and six sisters. Survivors include her children, Dorothy (Ferdinand) Gaul of Earling; Leo Rau (Jane) of Omaha, NE; Zita (Richard) Bruck of Earling; Alma Kramer of Harlan; Leonard Rau (Alice) of Portsmouth; Jeanette (Richard) Mikels of Portsmouth; Martha Mumm of Harlan; Verla (Charles) Mumm of Dunlap; Mervin (Ron) Corbin of Kerrville, TX; Patricia Gordon Kuether of Pierce, NE; Gilbert Rau (Mary Ann) of Lander, WY; Judy (Richard) Jones of Omaha, NE; 94 grandchildren, three step grandchildren; 149 great grandchildren; nine step great grandchildren; 25 great great grandchildren and one step great great grandchild and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated March 13, 1998, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant and Msgr. Edward Kelly homilist. Concelebrants were Rev. Cornelius Gaul, Rev. Richard Gubbels, Rev. Michael Berner and Rev. James Kleffman. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with Robert Rau, Michael Jones, David Gaul, Ray Shrader, Tom Kuether, Dennis Mumm, Wayne Bruck and Duane Mumm casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.