

Dorothy Zimmerman, 101

May 10, 1903 - June 14, 2004

PANAMA – Dorothy C. Zimmerman, the daughter of Peter and Mary Stoll Willmes, was born May 10, 1903, in Panama. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. She attended grade school at St. Mary's in Panama and high school at Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS. After high school, she attended normal training in Harlan and then began teaching at a country school near Westphalia.

June 3, 1924, she married Ernest Joseph Zimmerman at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. They made their home in Panama where Ernest managed the grocery store for his father. Dorothy was the church organist until she took on the role of being a mother to seven children, Harold, Elaine, Dolores, Marcene, E. Allan, Don and Grace. She was the cofounder and past president of the sewing circle, a past member of the Rosary Society, a member of the Senior Citizens group and of St. Mary's Catholic Church. She died June 14, 2004, at Little Flower Haven at age 101 years, one month and four days.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy is preceded in death by her husband, Ernest, who died Nov. 25, 1978; one daughter, Grace; two grandsons, Paul Stessman and an infant boy Twark; brother, Louis; and sisters, Caroline, Cecelia, Marcella and Helen. She is survived by her children, Harold and Elaine Zimmerman and Dolores Stessman, all of Panama; Marcene (Richard) Twark of State College, PA; E. Allan and Don, both of Panama; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters, Sarah Mischo of San Diego, CA and Mary A. Schaben of Earling; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 17, 2004, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Richard Stessman, Jim Stessman, Patrick Stessman, Paul Zimmerman, Dan Stessman and Pete Zimmerman casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

