

Donna Buckley, 77

May 24, 1927 - March 10, 2005

HARLAN — Donna Mae Buckley, daughter of Andrew and Hazel (Bendon) Gau, was born May 24, 1927, at Portsmouth. She was baptized and confirmed in St. Mary's Catholic Church. Following kindergarten class at a rural school, her education continued at St. Mary's. After graduation in 1945, she attended summer school classes in Missouri Valley and began teaching in rural schools.

In 1949, Donna married William P. Buckley. Three children were born to this union, Duane, Diane and Denise. They farmed in the Portsmouth area. During this time, Donna served as a substitute teacher. She also taught the kindergarten classes at Portsmouth Independent District. In 1966, she began teaching reading in Portsmouth and continued her work at schools in Panama and Earling. While teaching, she took off-campus classes from various colleges and attended evening classes at Dana College in Blair, NE. It was from Dana College that she received her degree in elementary education in 1977. She was a member of the Harlan Education Association, the Iowa State Education Association and a lifetime member of the National Education Association. She worked for Harlan Community Schools for 25 years. Following their retirement in 1991, Donna and William moved to Harlan where she became a member of St. Michael's Parish and St. Ann's Guild. Donna died March 10, 2005, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 77 years, nine months and 17 days.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, William. She is survived by her son, Duane Buckley (Mary Jo), of Missouri Valley; two daughters, Diane Buckley of Chicago, IL and Denise Pettiecord (Everett) of Yardley, PA; four grandchildren, Bryan Buckley (Kathy) of Logan; Bradley Buckley of Omaha, NE; and Julia and Everett Pettiecord III of Yardley, PA; three great grandchildren, Michael, Bryanna and Levi. She is also survived by her sisters and brothers, Dorothy Wolf (Jack) of Greenville, MI, Phil Gau (Connie) and Dean Gau (Micky), all of Portsmouth, and Lois Rosenow (Don) of Tipton; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 14, 2005, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Robert Hoefler celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portsmouth, with Scott Gau, Paul Buckley, Jeffrey Wolf, James Buckley, Craig Rosenow, and David Gau casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

