

## **Regina Mary Gessert, 72**

**Feb. 18, 1922 - July 15, 1994**

**Harlan** - Regina Mary Gessert, daughter of Stephañ and Johanna (Coenen) Patten, was born Feb. 18, 1922 at Westphalia. She died at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital in Omaha July 15, 1994, at age 72 years, 4 months, and 27 days. She was baptized, received her first communion, and was confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. She attended St. Boniface Catholic School and later helped at home while growing to adulthood.

Nov. 27, 1941, she married Donald W. Gessert at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Fifteen children were born to this union. After their marriage, they made their home in Portsmouth and Westphalia before moving to Harlan in 1949. While in Harlan, she worked as a cook for the Lunch Wagon with Short and Stella Slice, the Chicken Hut, and the Harlan House Restaurant until retiring in 1987. She has continued to live in Harlan since that time. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Donald Sept. 12, 1974, one son-in-law, Lyle Lauritsen, two grandsons Jon Gessert and Derick Lauritsen, and one brother Emil. She is survived by eight sons: Ralph (Mickie) Gessert of Harlan, Donald (Susan) Gessert of Elk Horn, Darold Gessert (Barbara Thrasher) of Harlan, Wayne Gessert of Co. Bluffs (Nancy Markham), Dale (Georgia) Gessert of Spencer, IN, Randall Gessert of Harlan, Darwin (Mary) Gessert of Harlan, Dean (Deb) Gessert of Harlan, seven daughters; JoAnn Rose (Lonnie) of Harlan, Rozann Lauritsen of Harlan (Leland Tresner), Diane Derby (Terry), Kathy Kelly (John) and Marcia Albertsen (Tom) all of Harlan, Beverly Gessert of Minden, and Donna Jean Gessert of Harlan, 34 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, four sisters Corsina Sterzinger of Colby, WI, Kathryn Frieze, Rosemary Michalski, and Gladys Michalski all of Co. Bluffs, two brothers Harold Patten of Co. Bluffs, and Anthony Patten of Defiance, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 19, 1994 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan with Msgr. Edward Kelly, celebrant, assisted by Rev. Mr. Pat Davitt. Burial was in Harlan cemetery with Jason Gessert, William Rose, Chris Kelly, Jessie Rose, Chad Kelly, Stephen Gessert, William Albertsen and Frank Derby, honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Darrin Gessert, Michael Albertsen, Shawn Gessert, Kelly Gessert, Andrew Lauritsen and Brian Gessert. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.