

**Mathilda Nowatzke, 96**

Sept. 15, 1912 - July 17, 2009

**PANAMA** — Mathilda "Tillie" Amelia Nowatzke, daughter of Peter and Mary (Kenkel) Wingert, was born on September 15, 1912, in Earling. She was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling and received her First Communion and Confirmation at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. She attended St. Mary's High School in Panama.

June 13, 1938, Tillie was united in marriage to Jacob Joseph Nowatzke at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Three sons were born to this union: Robert, David, and Duane. After their wedding, Tillie and Jake made their home on a farm northeast of Panama before moving to the farm



they purchased in 1942 east of Panama. Tillie helped Jake with the farm duties including working with the chickens, geese, and ducks and milking the cows. She also enjoyed tending to the baby farm animals. Tillie and Jake continued to live on the farm until September 1982 when they retired from farming and moved into Panama. Tillie enjoyed quilting, crocheting, embroidering, and sewing, working in her garden with her flowers, spending time in the kitchen baking and cooking for her friends and family and traveling to new places. Tillie loved to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a loving mother, grandma, and great grandma and had a firm hand when it was needed. Tillie was the rock of her family. Tillie was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama where she participated in the Church Sodality, Rosary Society, and the sewing circle. Tillie became a resident of Rose Vita Home in Woodbine, in February 2004 before moving to Elm Crest Retirement Community in June 2008. It was there she died on Friday, July 17, 2009, having attained the age of ninety-six years, ten months, and two days.

Tillie is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Jake; her great grandchild James Lee Nowatzke; her brothers Alfred and Joseph; and her sister Olivia. She is survived by her sons Robert Nowatzke and his wife Nancy of Prairie Village, KS; David Nowatzke and his significant other Kathy Barco of Kearney, MO; and Duane Nowatzke and his wife Susan of Earling; twelve grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; her sisters-in-law Sr. Amelia Nowatzke of Atchison, KS; Ann Kwapiszeski and Antilia Wingert both of Harlan; nieces; nephews; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, July 20, 2009, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. Rev.

*Pauley*

Paul Strittmatter officiated the 2:00 PM service. Interment was held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama with Craig Nowatzke acting as honorary casket bearer and Mark Wingert, Dennis Nowatzke, Alf Wingert, Mike Nowatzke, Stan Fish, and Jason Nowatzke serving as casket bearers.

*Jones*

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