

## Margaret Stessman, 74

Oct. 20, 1930 - Jan. 7, 2005

**DEFIANCE** — Margaret Stessman, known to most of her friends as Margie, was born Oct. 20, 1930, in Defiance, daughter of Joseph and Josephine Cotey Goeres. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She grew to adulthood in the Defiance area attending country school and St. Paul's Catholic School. After completing her education, Margie worked at Norgaard Drug Store in Harlan.

Margie married David Stessman Sept. 25, 1950, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. They then made their home in Defiance where David operated Stessman Auto Repair and Service Station. During that time, Margie also worked with her husband at the business as his bookkeeper. She also found time to be a mother as well as operating the Stessman Cafe for three years from 1977 to 1980. In July of 1987, she became employed at CDS in Harlan, a position she maintained until she retired in December of 1994. During the later years they spent some of their winters in Arizona and Texas. Dave and Margie were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Sept. 25, 2000. Margie died Jan. 7, 2005, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 74 years, two months and 18 days.

Margie was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Clarence Goeres. In addition to her husband, David, she is survived by her son, Larry Stessman (Deanna) of Defiance; daughters, Pat Stessman of Earling and Jane Kruse of Harlan; and son, Roger Stessman of Mesa, AZ; 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; a sister, Donna Gollobit (Theodore) of Manilla; sister-in-law, Virgie Goeres of Defiance; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 11, 2005, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Burial was in Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Defiance, with Gary Stolz, Mike Stessman, Randy Stolz, Jr., Kevin Kruse, Jeff Kruse, Tom Assmann, Jason Finken and Kelly Schwarte casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

