

Althea Sweeney, 81

Feb. 2, 1925 - Nov. 19, 2006

NEOLA — Althea C. Rosmann Sweeney was born in Shelby County, Feb. 2, 1925, the youngest of 13 children, to Elizabeth Miller and John Rosmann. She graduated Valedictorian from Saint Peter and Paul High School in Defiance in June 1942. She attended Mount Saint Scholastica College in Atchison, KS, on an academic scholarship, earning a BA in mathematics in June 1946.

Althea married John P. Sweeney in Defiance June 5, 1948; they were married 46 years, until John's death, Nov. 27, 1994. Althea taught high school for 26 years in Neola, Minden and Underwood. She was the recipient of National Science Foundation fellowships in Mathematical Sciences, completing graduate work at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 1974, she changed careers, licensing as a Life, Health and Securities Agent with the New York Life Company, from which she retired in 1996. Althea earned CLU and CHFA licenses from the American College of Insurance and Finance in Bryn Mawr, PA. She was a member of the million-dollar round table in New York Life for 22 consecutive years and Kappa Mu Epsilon, an honor society in mathematics. Althea lived in Neola for 58 years, before relocating to Tucson in September 2004 to live with her son, Brian, and his wife, Dee. She died Nov. 19, 2006, in Tucson, AZ, after a lengthy illness at age 81.

Althea was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son-in-law, F. Patrick Morgan; three brothers and seven sisters and their spouses. She is survived by two daughters, Susan E. Sweeney of Coralville; Barbara A. Morgan of Kansas City, MO; two sons, John Patrick, Jr. of Neola; Brian M. (M. Dolores "Dee") Sweeney of Tucson, AZ; former son-in-law, Luke J. Flaharty of Iowa City; three grandsons, Daniel J. Sweeney of Utila, Honduras; John M. Sweeney (Ingrid) of Tucson, AZ; and Michael P. Morgan of Kansas City, MO; a granddaughter, Kathleen E. Morgan of Kansas City, MO; two sisters, Dorothy Rosmann Sunderman of Earling and Myra Rosman Klahs of Norfolk, NE; two sisters-in-law, Catherine Sweeney Dorsey of Neola and Corrine Denning Sweeney of Denver; nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Saint Patrick's Church, Neola, Nov. 25, 2006, followed by burial in Neola. Cutler-O'Neill Funeral Home, Council Bluffs, in charge of arrangements.