



Wilma L. Purcell

June 25, 1921 - August 16, 2014

Wilma Lucille Purcell, 93 of Murphysboro, IL passed away at 6:33 a.m. on Saturday August 16, 2014, in the Rehab and Care Center of Jackson County, Murphysboro, Illinois.

Wilma was born on June 25, 1921 in Murphysboro, IL to Alphonse Wanstreet and Mary (Hufnagel) Wanstreet.

She attended St. Andrew School, Murphysboro Township High School, Southern Illinois Normal and Purdue University. Wilma started working during WWII as a stenographer at the Wright -Patterson AFB for the Defense Department in Dayton, OH and later transferred to Monsanto Chemical Company in St. Louis, MO.

In 1946, she married John Thomas (JT) Purcell, with whom she raised five children. Later, she pursued and attained an Associate Degree in Accounting at John A. Logan Community College. Subsequently, Wilma worked as a bookkeeper at the Carbondale Senior Citizens Center until her retirement.

Wilma was a devoted parishioner of St. Andrew Catholic Church that was founded by her great uncle, Father Schauerte. She was active with the St. Andrew Altar Society, Meals-on- Wheels and Blue Army.

Survivors include four children John Purcell and wife Cynthia of Memphis, TN, Elizabeth Ann Purcell of Chicago, IL, Tom Purcell and wife Susan of Broken Arrow, OK, Barbara Wiley and husband Russ of Dallas, TX, and son-in-law Art Cohen of Palm Harbor, FL.

Wilma is also survived by eight grandchildren, Jennifer, Andrew and Christopher Purcell, Benjamin and Jonathan Cohen, Lisa Steward, Derek Purcell, Michelle Wiley;

one great grandchild, Kate Steward;

a sister in law Jane Purcell, a brother in law George Purcell, and two nieces Janice Smith and Nancy Ward.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her daughter Mary Jo Cohen, her sister Ruth Wanstreet and her parents.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Father Leo Hayes will be officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the church. Burial will follow at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Andrew Catholic Church, the St. Andrew Altar Society or to the donor's choice. For more information, please visit <http://www.pettettfuneralhome.com>.

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilma L. Purcell*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *To the Purcell Family,*

My deepest sympathy to all of you. Remembering your Mother through the early years of St Andrew's and also through the high school years. She had that class, style and grace which she passed on to her family. A special lady is now at peace.

Nancy VanCloostere Harsy - August 19, 2014 at 12:08 PM



“ *I was so sadden to hear of your great loss. I will always remember calling across the street the first time I met her, after moving here. She didn't have her hearing aid in and I had such a cold and I could hardly talk.... We must have been a site. Such a sweet lady, she will be missed. With deepest sympathy to you all, may God Bless you Mary Ann*

Mary Ann Reichert - August 18, 2014 at 11:59 PM



“ *Marilyn an I are very sorry to here your mon passed away. She was a very loving woman, I was enjoying seeing you an mon every day at JCRH, are condolences to you and your family, an you are in our prayers. Jim & Marilyn*

James & Marilyn Taylor - August 18, 2014 at 09:46 PM

EP

“ I, too, have a confession to make.....I enjoyed my life too, especially with you.

We traveled and shopped and fine dined and enjoyed the beautiful sites all over the world. If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't do anything different.

I love you so much!

And.....I hope I die before molly.....congratulations!

Elizabeth Ann Purcell - August 18, 2014 at 08:23 PM

LC

“ I remember Wilma as a warm and very classy lady. She was a delight each time I had the fortune to meet her. I'll never forget when Barbara and I met John halfway to bring her to Dallas for a visit. She was quite a character! She would never drink water - she had to have her Coca-Cola!

She'll be missed. My heart goes out to you, Barbara, and to your family.

With love,

Lisa

Lisa Chapman - August 18, 2014 at 07:36 PM