

Fleming, Angelia

Angelia (Nellie) Witer Fleming, 89, passed away Monday, June 15, 2009.

She graduated from Gladwin High School, Mercy College of Detroit, and with a master's degree in special education from Michigan State University. She was working on her PhD when she decided to retire after 25 years of teaching.

Nellie was a past member of the Altar Society, Daughters of Isabella, Oakdale Parent Group, PTA, Sentry Fund and the American Business Women, which elected her Woman of the Year in Grand Rapids. With her husband, she was a member of the Honolulu Navy League and Honolulu Elks Club. She also was a member of NEA, MEA, KARSP, Grand Rapids Elks Club and the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) and was an auxiliary member of the Naval Mine Warfare Association.

She traveled to most of the 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. She also enjoyed trips to Europe, the British Isles, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, Canada and Mexico. Planes, trains, ships and automobiles – she was always ready to explore new territories.

She is remembered as a loving mother, dedicated wife, caring teacher and incomparable cook. Her life impacted many people in numerous positive ways as she gave of her time, talents and self.

Nellie was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Bernard; sons, Michael and Patrick; parents, Mary and John Witer; brothers, John, Joseph and Stanley Witer; and sisters, Mary Witer and Anna Harvath.

She is survived by her three daughters and sons-in-law, Deanna and Larry St. John of Caledonia, Cheryle and Ron Hess of Great Falls, Va., and Carlene and A. Ben Sifford of Smithfield, Va. She also leaves her two well-loved grandchildren and two precious great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2009 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2750 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, with the Rev. Fr. R. Louis Stasker, presiding.

Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Bad Axe at 11 a.m. Friday, June 19.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, with the Rosary being said at 7 p.m. at the O'Brien, Eggebeen, Gerst Funeral Home, 3980 Cascade Rd., SE, Grand Rapids and from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday at church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) or to a charity of one's choice.