Leona Murtha, 77

Mass of the Resurrection for Leona "Onie" Murtha, 77, Victor, was held Thursday at St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Victor. She died Monday, October 25, 2004, at Brookhaven Nursing Home, Brooklyn, following an extended illness.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Victor.

A memorial fund has been established.

Smith Funeral Home, Victor, was in charge of arrangements.

Leona Murtha was born Nov. 2, 1926, near Millersburg in Iowa County, the daughter of Myles and Blanche Roggentine Costello. She graduated from Millersburg High School in 1942 at the age of 16. Following her education, she taught in one-room schoolhouses in rural Iowa County. She was also an elementary school teacher in the Millersburg school system.

She married Robert W. Murtha on Aug. 11, 1948, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Millersburg. The couple farmed on the Murtha family farm near Victor until retiring in 1995 and moving to Victor.

She was a member of St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Victor; the Altar and Rosary Society; and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was known as a willing volunteer for church, school and community events, notably the annual church suppers, funeral dinners and HACAP meals. She was known for her love of flowers, and people would often drive by Onie and Bob's retirement house in Victor to see her gardens.

Murtha is survived by her husband; her children and their spouses, Diane and Rob Hayes, Des Moines, Connie and Bill Scovin, Bridgewater, Conn, Robert Murtha, Mankato, Minn., Greg and Beth Murtha, Marshalltown, and Chris and Von Miller, Runnells; 11 grandchildren, Brian Hayes, Minneapolis, Minn., Kevin Hayes and wife Gina, Madison, Wis., Amanda MacKenzie and husband Phil, Rachel and Michael Murtha, all Mankato, Minn., Jenny, Jacob and Jillian Miller, Runnells, Cecily and Carson Scovin, Bridgewater, and Emily Murtha, Marshalltown; her mother, Blanche Costello; and one sister, Rita Stahl, both Williamsburg.

She was preceded in death by her father, one brother, Robert F. Costello, and one sister, Helen Newberry.