



Gerken Pauline

January 26, 2011

Pauline Emma (Damman) Gerken, 86, of Defiance, OH passed on to her heavenly reward on January 26, 2011 at the home of her daughter. She was born on January 26, 1925 in Henry County, to Fred and Freida (Bostelman) Damman. She grew up in Freedom Township and attended St John's Lutheran Church. In December 1947, Pauline married Wilbert Kruse of Hamler, Oh. He preceded her in death. Pauline was a dedicated mother and teacher. In addition to showing her children unconditional love, she also shared this love with her 1st graders at Holgate School. She was blessed with the ability to transform her 1st graders into affluent readers and instill an appreciation for learning. She used innovative techniques to encourage and inspire her 1st graders. She also used her teaching ability to share her faith at Hope Lutheran Church in Hamler, where she taught Sunday School and catechism. Despite the hardships that she experienced throughout her life, she maintained an incredible sense of humor and a very generous heart, all framed by an endearing smile. Pauline is survived by her husband Mylo, children; Dan (Dinah) Kruse of Hamler, Dr. Roger (Patricia) Kruse of Perrysburg, MiChelle (Craig) Parsons of Liberty Center, stepchildren; Michael (Darla) Gerken of Defiance, James Gerken of Joplin MO, Pamela (Douglas) Bortz of Perrysburg, Barbara Hohenberger of Toledo, Rex (Mary) Hohenberger of Holgate, Roxanne (Bob) Fabien of Cleveland, Reg (Kathleen) Hohenberger of Perrysburg, 8 grandchildren; Christina, Kylene, Anna, Greg, Chad, Cullen, Alyssa, and Kaiden, 5 great grandchildren, two brothers; Walter (Ruth) Daman of Lafayette, CA, John (Marlene) Damman of Delta and two sisters; Luella (Loren) Beck of Gibsonburg, and Kathleen (Kenneth) Gerken of Napoleon. She was preceded in death by brothers Franklin, Henry, Arnold, and Victor Damman. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1st, 2011 at St. John Lutheran Church, Defiance. Entombment will follow at Riverview Memory Gardens, Defiance. Friends may call on Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. The family suggest memorials to the American Heart Association, St. John Lutheran Church, Defiance, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Tribute Wall



“ Dan, Roger & Families, We send our condolences and prayers that God will comfort you at this difficult time. It is so hard to lose parents, like a piece of you is missing. There are so many good memories of when we were young and our family spent time together especially at Grandma Minnie's house. Remember the pepper games with them pounding on the table? Your Grandpa Fred was good at that! What about all that German that we couldn't understand! Even as a small child I knew that your mother was very talented and special. May God give you wonderful memories and peace. Jim & Betty(Meyer)Kerr###imported-begin##Jim & Betty (meyer) Kerr###imported-end##

February 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Reggie and Family: May God be with you at this time of loss. Your Mom was a good teacher and fine lady. She will be missed, but knowing where she is at now and will always be watching and loving you.###imported-begin##Kim Rettig###imported-end##

February 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Reg, Michelle & family: My Mom called yesterday afternoon and shared with me the news that your Mother had passed. I'll always remember her as I was lucky enough to have her as a 1st grade teacher but also 5th & 6th grade too. She was a wonderful teacher and a fantastic person who definitely made a positive difference in the short time she was on this earth. An Earthly Angel went home to her reward. May God continue to comfort you in this sad time.###imported-begin##Lois Hohenbrink Ewald###imported-end##

January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To Dan, Rog and Shelly my condolences to the passing of our Mom, may the lord watch over you. Love Barb###imported-begin##Barbara Hohenberger###imported-end##

January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest condolences go out to the entire family in the loss of your loved one.###imported-begin##Mike & Dorothy Cooper###imported-end##

January 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *##imported-begin##Sandy Shoup##imported-end##*

January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Roger, Pat, and family, We are very sorry to hear of the passing of your mother/grandmother and want to extend our deepest sympathy. We are thinking of you. Love, Shanda and Randy##imported-begin##Randy And Shanda Essell##imported-end##*

January 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Roger, Dan, and other members of the family, My mother called me this evening to say that Pauline had passed on. I am very, very sorry to hear this. I so admired your mother as someone who was able to persevere through all kinds of adversity. I clearly remember the many the times I saw her at your Grandpa Kruse's farm, the many times after that, and I especially remember, just like it was yesterday, talking to her at her home up town just a few days before she went to Texas for her heart operation. I'm sure you take comfort in the fact that she was blessed with many, many good years after that. I see that Pauline's birthday was the same date as Natalie's--January 26. I see also that this is also the day she passed away. May she rest in peace. It truly seems like the end of an era. Tom Stober##imported-begin##Tom Stober##imported-end##*

January 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM