

JOSEPHINE M. 'NANI' COOK

July 19, 1926 – April 19, 2006

Josephine M. "Nani" Cook, 79, Kokomo, went to be with the Lord at 6:18 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2006, from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hospital. She was born July 19, 1926, in Chicago, Ill., a daughter of Frank and Grace (Alfano) Scardina.



In 1944, Josie graduated from Steinmetz High School in Chicago, Ill. On April 3, 1945, in San Diego, Calif., she married Leslie F. Cook. Their only child, Kathleen Grace Cook, was born Feb. 23, 1956, and she preceded her mother in death. Also preceding Josie in death were her parents and a brother, Sylvester Scardina.

Josie was a parishioner of St. Patrick's Catholic Church for more than 60 years. She was a devout believer and prayed the Rosary each morning.

Josie worked at Monte's Restaurant as a hostess in the 1970s and 1980s, after which she became a full-time homemaker.

Upon her daughter's passing in 1987, she and Les chose to take over guardianship and raise their two granddaughters. Although the name "Nani" was for her granddaughters to use in the place of Grandma, it was quickly adopted by many others because of the love,

kindness and acceptance she showed. Josie always had a smile for everyone. She prided herself on being a devoted wife of more than 61 years and a dedicated caregiver of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, working crossword puzzles and doing crafts. Josie was a wonderful cook and made the lasagna. She was admired by many and will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Leslie Cook; two granddaughters, Michelle Gonzales, Kristina and husband Chad Altherr; one grandson at heart, Jason Tedder; three great-grandchildren, Ashley Gonzales, Justin Craig and Jacob Tedder, all of Kokomo; two sisters, Mary Mayland and Florence "Dolly" Beckman, Chicago, Ill.; and two brothers, Joseph Scardina, Denver, Colo., and Vince Scardina, Key West, Fla.

Visitation is 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday at Ellers Mortuary Webster Street Chapel, 3400 S. Webster St., where a memorial service will be given by Pastor Patrick Bousum at 5:30 p.m. to share memories that others have had of Josie. Friends and family are welcome to share their memories at this time as well. After the service, calling will resume until 8 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1229 N. Washington St., with Father Randy Soto the celebrant. Entombment will follow at Sunset Memory Garden Mausoleum.