

Sentinel-Standard (Ionia, MI) - June 4, 2010

Deceased Name: Virginia A. **Albert**

Date of death: 06/01/2010

Date of birth: 09/17/1918

Age at death: 91

BELDING, Mich. -

Virginia A. **Albert** , 91, of rural Belding died Tuesday June 1, 2010, at home under the loving care of her family and Great Lakes Hospice.

Virginia was born on Sept. 17, 1918, in Cannon Township, the daughter of James and Noema M. Weeks Doran. Virginia graduated from St. Patrick High School in Parnell in 1936. After graduation she graduated from Grand Rapids Community College with an associates degree in 1939 and later received her bachelor's degree from Western State Teachers College in Kalamazoo in 1941. Her first teaching job was with Beaverton Public School, teaching 3rd grade. It was not unusual for the class size to be anywhere from 48 to 57 children. Virginia taught at Beaverton for six years. In September of 1947, wedding bells were ringing and Virginia married Leo James **Albert** on the 27th of September at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Parnell.

For the next 21 years, Virginia stayed at home helping Leo on the farm and being blessed with a large family. She later returned to teaching for Belding Area Schools in 1968 teaching second and third grades at Hallpark Elementary, and retired in 1982. Virginia was a longtime member of St. Mary Catholic Church at Miriam, and was active in the implementation of coffee and rolls being served after mass in the church hall to raise money to purchase a new electric stove for the hall.

She also started the bus trips for the senior members of St. Mary's as well as starting the prayer chain. When the beautiful stained glass windows of the church needed repair, it was Virginia who started the "Church Window Restoration Fund" collecting and rolling up coins, mostly pennies, to pay for the restoration work. The windows are well know as being works of art and received the attention of the State of Michigan Library, who asked Virginia to provide pictures of the windows for their archives.

After World War II, her husband Leo had acquired some leftover glider parts that had been made in Greenville during the war. Always resourceful, Leo had used some of the mid-sections of the glider for holding hay and feeders for the cattle. Years later, a gentleman driving by the farm one day noticed these glider parts and knew of their historical importance and helped Virginia donate the parts to the Kalamazoo Air Museum.

She was a member of the Altar Society and the Michigan Milk Producers Association. She was blessed with a long, faith-filled and hardworking life. Her examples as a wife, mother, teacher and friend showed a strong faith, a quiet determination, and a love of family and friends.

Virginia is survived by her children: Anne Magers of Trufant, Peggy and Tim Wood of Belding, Jane and Ron French of Hessel, Betty and Mike Springsteen of Moran, Leo and Nancy **Albert** of Stanton, Phillip and Sue **Albert** of Belding; a daughter-in-law: Olga **Albert** of Belding; and her grandchildren: Jasen **Albert** ,

Victoria **Albert** , Charles Magers and Chris Sullivan, Charity and Drew Hoffman, Cally Wood, Robert Wood, Steven and Lila King, Kris French, Jeff Rackes, Andrew and Heather French, Jacob Springsteen, Sara Springsteen, William Springsteen, Patrick Springsteen, Katherine Springsteen, Chad and Dawn **Albert** , Brad **Albert** , Travis **Albert** , Chris Thompson, Laura Thompson, Kevin **Albert** , Tara and Chad Doolittle, Jessica and Everett Stewart, Jacoby Drumm, Robert Drumm, Joshua and Julie Drumm, Joseph Drumm, Jedediah Drumm, Jennifer Drumm, Jamie Marentette, Cori **Albert** , and Kyle **Albert** .

Virginia is also survived by her great grandchildren: Chase, Avery, Addison, Benjamin, Katlyn, Brandon, Jessica, Gabrielle, Westley, Clayton, Rilie, Brendan, Aubrey, Angel, Kristian, Marcus, Maya and Dallas; her sister Bernadette Willette of Traverse City; and her sister-in-laws Lenore Doran of Ada, Joyce Doran of Comstock Park, Esther Doran of Grand Haven, Mary **Albert** of Belding, and Kate and Jim Byrne of Ionia.

She was preceded by her husband Leo; two sons, Larry and Steven; her daughter-in-law Brenda; son-in-law Gerald Magers; grand daughter Erin Springsteen; her sisters Marguerite, Irma, Katherine, Elizabeth, Noema, Mary, and Loyolla; and her brothers Frank, James, Joseph, Raymond, William, Paul, Robert, Edward, John, Donald, George and John.

Mass of Christian burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Mary Catholic Church, Belding, with Father Greg Salomone presiding. Right of committal will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

Visitation will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. with a scripture service at 7:30 at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding. Memorials may be given to the Doran Foundation for Medical Education at St. Mary's Hospital, St. Mary Cemetery Fund, or the Belding Library.

To sign the online register book or send a message of condolence to the **Albert** family, please visit the website of the funeral at www.jffh.com.