

Esther Gowin

Jerseyville | Monday, December 31 2012

Esther Pauline Gowin, 75, died at 6:10 a.m., Monday, December 31, 2012 at her residence surrounded by her family after a valiant battle with lung cancer.

She was born in Jerseyville on April 22, 1937, one of three children born to the late Christian & Emma Irene (Krause) Kessler.

Esther graduated from Jersey Community High School in 1955, and married Robert Hildred and together they had four children together before his death on July 26, 1968. She later married William Gowin on Jan. 1, 1971 in Jerseyville, and together they had two children and shared 18 years together before his death on Sept. 25, 1989.



Esther began her working career as a young lady at the International Shoe Factory in Jerseyville, and then soon began her long career in the business world. She began working at Jersey Saving & Loan as a teller and through the years, earned her way to Vice President at what later became Heritage Savings & Loan. Later she began working as a loan officer at First Federal Savings & Loan in East Alton, and then worked at Agro Systems/Tax Masters in Brighton. All the while, she was also the bookkeeper for she & Bill's business, Westside Conoco in Jerseyville for many years.

Always wanting to stay in the public sector, Esther managed the Liberty Street Boarding Home in Jerseyville, and was a desk clerk at the Reubel Hotel in Grafton.

Surviving are six children & their spouses, Kay Hildred and her companion, Gabe DiFrancisco of Jerseyville, Robin Frank of Jerseyville, Clark Hildred of Jerseyville, Clayton & Dana Hildred of Decatur, Nancy & Scott Sullivan of Berea, Ky., and Russ Gowin of Decatur; 14 Grandchildren; 24 Great Grandchildren; a sister, Loretta Hagen of

Granite City; a brother, Ronald Kessler of Godfrey; her beloved pets, Ms. Kitty, Lucky and Gypsy; and her grandpets, Chopper and Cilly.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a special companion, Charles Wells.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Crawford Funeral Home in Jerseyville, where funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday with the Rev. Barb Alley officiating.

Burial will be in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Jerseyville.

Memorials may be given to the BJC Hospice.