

Betty Jane Merkey, age 88, of Manistee, Michigan died Friday night, October 18, 2013 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee.

She was born August 25, 1925 in Manistee, Michigan and was the daughter of the late Edward and Stella B. (Zywicki) Franckowiak. Betty attended St. Joseph and Manistee High School. She married Edward A. Merkey on May 29, 1943 in Franklin, Kentucky. He preceded her in death on March 8, 1994. Betty was employed at J.J. Newberry Store, Mercy Hospital and later at West Shore Hospital, all in Manistee, retiring in 1978. She was a member of the Manistee Eagles Lodge Auxiliary where she had been a past president; she was also a member of the St. Mary's Altar Society. Betty enjoyed reading, bowling, singing in the choir at both St. Joseph and St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine Churches, as well as gardening and cooking for her family.

Surviving are two daughters and a son in-law; Patricia Merkey of Manistee, MI, and Peggy and Kevin Block of St. Joseph, Michigan, two grandsons Kevin (Julie) Block II of Pleasant Prairie, WI, and Brian Block and his fiancée Kyla Galbreath both of St. Joseph, MI, and by two great granddaughters Jordan Block and Jenna Block both of Pleasant Prairie, WI, two brothers and one sister in-law; Stanley and Patricia Franckowiak, LaVerne Franckowiak all of Manistee, Michigan. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Stella (Zywicki) Franckowiak, her husband Edward A. Merkey and by her brother and sister in-law, Richard and Dorothy Franckowiak.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Friday, October 25, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

The Evening Vigil Service will be prayed Thursday evening at 8:00 PM at the Herbert Funeral home in Manistee, where friends may begin calling, Thursday evening after 6:00 PM. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and at the church on Friday afternoon one hour prior to the funeral mass.

A memorial will be established in Betty's name for Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Friday afternoon.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.