



Helen DeLonais

June 28, 1918 - December 22, 2004

Helen DeLonais, 86, of Bourbonnais, died Wednesday (Dec. 22, 2004) at Riverside Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in the Chapel at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais, with entombment to follow. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley. Arrangements are by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Mrs. DeLonais was born June 28, 1918 in Galena, the daughter of Peter and Mary Evan Kriebs. Surviving are her husband, Leonard L. DeLonais of Bourbonnais, whom she married in June of 1952 in Bradley; one sister, Dolores Kriebs of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one stepdaughter, Gretchen and Sam Averitt; and one stepgrandson, Spencer Averitt of Tucson, Ariz. Three sisters, Veronica Westemeier, Florence Hatfield and Laura Stafford; and four brothers, Arnold, Edmund, Louis and Earl Kriebs, are deceased. Mrs. DeLonais graduated from Galena schools and also St. Joseph Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1942. She joined the Army Nurse Corp in 1943 and served in Saipan and Iwo Jima. She was discharged in 1946. She graduated from a course in anesthesiology at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minn., and then worked at the VA Hospital in Dwight and as chief nurse anesthetist at Downey Veterans Hospital in North Chicago. She was a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists; the Bourbonnais VFW Post 9961, where she served as adjutant; the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society; the National Association of Retired Federal Employees; and the Women of the Moose. She also was a 50-year member of the American Legion.