

Margaret Nelsen, 83

Oct. 16, 1922 - Dec. 18, 2005

AVOCA — Margaret Mary Porschwas was born Oct. 16, 1922, and grew up on a farm in Kansas. She attended school in Olathe, KS. During World War II, she was one of the few females that enlisted in the armed forces. In 1942, the United States Coast Guard Women's reserve, also known as the SPARS, was created. Margaret was one of the 10,000 women that volunteered to help their country.

After her release from the service in 1946, she met another young member of the Coast Guard, Howard Nelsen. They fell in love and he and Margaret were married July 27, 1946, in Avoca where they started their new home. They were the parents of three boys, Alan, Michael and Duane. Margaret had trained as a beautician but was unable to keep up a full time practice because of health problems. She died Dec. 18, 2005, while overseas, at the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital at age 83 years, two months and two days.

In addition to her parents, Margaret is preceded in death by her husband, Howard. She is survived by her sons, Alan Nelsen of San Antonio, TX; Michael Nelsen (Mary Jane) of Raleigh, NC; and Duane Nelsen (Peggy) of Laffette, CA; eight grandchildren, Jennifer, Enoch, Lindsay, Katherine, Matthew, Mollie, Ashley and Michael; and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 21, 2006 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca, with Father John Frost celebrant. Inurnment was held in the Graceland Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca in charge of arrangements.