Henrietta M. Gerth

(Died December 6, 2009)

Henrietta M. “Henri” “Tootie” Gerth, age 73, of Winona, MN, passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2009, in Winona at the home of her sister after a short battle with cancer. Henri had been a lifelong resident of Winona. She was born on August 17, 1936, the daughter of Henry J. and Mary M. (Malewicki) Gerth.

Henri graduated from Winona Senior High School in 1954. She began her working career in the office of Abt’s Insurance Agency and was employed there for about five years until Mr. Abt’s retirement and the closing of the office. She then began her service to Winona State University, where she worked for 38 years, retiring in 2006. She enjoyed working with the students and had so much admiration for the people she worked with. She considered them all a part of her extended family. She was a dedicated Warrior’s fan, attending many of her student workers events and was always there to root on “the boys” of the Winona State Basketball Team.

She was a member of the Eagles Club and its women’s auxiliary where many will remember her as the bubbly, talkative little lady serving them chicken. Henri was also a member of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church and its quilting group, Winona State University Retirees, midmorning coffee club at Hardees, the Winona County Historical Society Old Settlers and the Winona Health Auxiliary. She enjoyed ceramics, and if you wanted a photo taken, her camera was always ready to snap that important picture.

Henri is survived by four sisters: Irene (Al) Mulyck, Winona, MN, and their children, Cindy Smith, Kevin (Jennifer) and children, Meghan, Morgan and Evin, Chris (Amy) and daughter, Amber, and John (Cheryl); Phyllis Fredricks, La Crosse, WI, and her children, Kim, Denise, Scott (Kathleen) and children, Ezekiel and Jacob, Jeff and his children, Tamara, Ben and Eliora; Pauline (Phil) Johnson, LaGrange, KY, and their children, Pamela (Clay) Hanson and children, Morgan and Rochelle, Spirros (Terry) Psarris, Jr. and children, Shawn and Thaddeus and Damon Psarris; Helen (Richard) Flores, Peotone, IL, and their son, Steven (Katrina) and children Kayleigh, Kendra and Christian; one brother, Henry (Ann) Gerth, Winona, MN, and their children, Heidi (Paul) Wiesnewski and children, Lilly, Will and Ben, and Jayson (Krista) and children, Abby, Tyler and Nathan; and niece, Jennifer (Cory) Barum and children, Christopher and Tyler.

Henrietta was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Frank.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:30 AM, on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. The Reverend Thomas J. Hargesheimer will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 4 PM until 7 PM, on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at the Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home, where a Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:30 PM. Visitation will also be held at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, on Thursday, December 9, 2009, from 9:30 AM until the time of the Mass.

Casketbearers will be Carl Stange, Joe Reed, Loren Watembach, Chris Mulyck, Jayson Gerth, Scott Fredricks and Steven Schabacker. Honorary casketbearers will be members of the Hardee’s midmorning coffee group and the St. John’s quilters.