June 2, 1930-Dec. 16, 2012

Shirley Jean Cockerell, 82, of Lima, died at 1:37 p.m. Sunday at Lima Convalescent Home with her family by her side.

She was born June 2, 1930, in Lima to Ralph and Sarah Carr, who preceded her in death.

On Dec. 28, 1947, she married Alvin “Alvie” Cockerell, who died on Jan. 14, 2001.

Survivors include a son, David (Peggy) Cockerell of Lima; two daughters, Pam (Don) Cook of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Diana (Bob) Beatty of Columbus; a sister, Sue (Ed) Zickafoose; five grandchildren, Jim (Karin) Cook of Berea, Jamie (Drew) Durbin of Columbus, Scott (Jill) Cockerell of Lima, Chris Cockerell of Chicago and Sara (Ian) Chongson of Lima; nine great-grandchildren, Logan and Mason Cook, Cassie and Jenna Durbin, Andrew and Nicholas Cockerell and Leo, Genevieve and Clara Chongson; three nephews, Jeff (Ann) Zickafoose, Jon (Jenny) Zickafoose and Greg (Cindy) Zickafoose.

She was also preceded in death by an infant brother.

She graduated from Elida High School in 1948. Mrs. Cockerell retired in January 2000 from the Allen County Common Pleas Court after 30 years with the county. She first served for 11 years at juvenile court and then 19 years with the common pleas as the judge’s administrative assistant, working with former Judge Michael Rumer, Judge Jeffrey Reed and Judge Robert Whitlach. Prior to her duration at the court, she worked many years at Mohler Flowers. After her retirement, Cockerell engaged in volunteer work including reading stories to students at Emerson Elementary School and offered clerical support to both Help Me Grow and Marimor School. She truly enjoyed giving her time and talents to the people in her community. Following her official retirement, she worked as a receptionist for Cory, Meredith, Rumer, Witter & Cheney, a local law firm.

She was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, where she sang in the chancel choir, served on the music committee as well as he church/staff relations committee and the Diaconate Board. She took up golf and had a talent for crocheting. During their marriage, she and her husband enjoyed traveling with the highlight being a trip to Pasadena to see their beloved OSU Buckeyes play in the Rose Bowl. She was well-known in the local sports scene as a passionate fan of both Elida and Lima Senior High School. Her life revolved around her family, whom she devoted the majority of her time. She never missed a play, a sporting event, a concert or anything that involved her grandchildren. Nothing brought her more happiness than being with her great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, the Rev. Rob White officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends may call from 2-8 p.m. today at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services, Shawnee

Chapel, and one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.
Preferred memorials are to the Alvie and Shirley Cockerell Memorial Scholarship Fund at Elida.