



Annabelle Spencer

November 30, 1920 - January 15, 2022

Annabelle McAlpin Spencer, 101, passed away Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, in Jackson.

Born Nov. 30, 1920, in Greenwood, Indiana, she entered Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, at age 16. Here she eventually met her husband, John Bunyan Spencer.

After both graduated, Annabelle supported her husband in his career, first as a Baptist minister in Alexandria, Ohio, and Morocco, Indiana, and then as a professor of religion at Keuka College in Keuka Park, New York, and Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She balanced raising a family while also working as a secretary at the University of Chicago and then at Western Michigan University.

As well as caring for the household and three children, Annabelle lovingly cared for her aged parents and then her husband's aged parents. In Kalamazoo, their church sponsored a Chinese-Vietnamese family (refugees from the Vietnam War) and opened their home to some of the children until their families could be fully reunited. The families maintained a connection to Annabelle and have prospered in the United States. Annabelle valued education and supported her children and grandchildren in pursuing their academic and career pursuits. She was beloved by her entire extended family.

After her husband's passing in 1987, Annabelle embarked on a new life in Sebring, Florida, volunteering and taking up bird watching, including taking the lead and arranging birding trips through the Highlands County Audubon Society. She also traveled the world with friends and family, from Europe to the Dry Tortugas, and enjoyed warming her many guests from the frozen north by hosting them in her home in Florida. Annabelle was also an accomplished bridge player and enjoyed this activity late into her 90s.

In 2010, she moved to Cape Girardeau to be nearer to family and enjoyed many friends at the Saxony Village Retirement Community and the Villas of Jackson. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau.

Annabelle was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Boyd McAlpin and Bertha Terman McAlpin; husband, John Bunyan Spencer; and son, Robert Burns Spencer. She is survived by her son, Theodore James (Donna) Spencer; her daughter, Jean Louise (Gail) Spencer; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be made to Exotic Feline Rescue Center (efrc.org/) or Highlands County Audubon Society (highlandsaudubon.org/) or the charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 29. 1:30 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

JS

“ With heartfelt condolences from my husband Gernot Blume and our children Avi and Amienne Spencer-Blume in Germany, dear cousins Ted and Jean and all the family of Aunt Annabelle. I miss her and am also holding beautiful memories of your brother Bob and your dad, my Uncle John in my thoughts at this time. I wish I could have been at the service. Aunt Annabelle was a fascinating person, kindhearted and clear headed, who i had enormous respect for and was deeply influenced by, because of her kindness toward animals and her invitation to me to spend time one summer with her and John, when I could play and improvise for many hours a day on their baby grand piano, sitting on the bench upholstered with Siamese cats and spending time at K college and eating icecream at midnight talking philosophy and sitting next to the birds. Your mom gave me unforgettable memories in Kalamazoo that shaped my art and thinking about God and the world. And it meant the world to my mom that her sister-in-law Annabelle came from Missouri to give support when my sister JoEllen passed too young. Aunt Annabelle made a real difference in my life and everyone who was touched by her fairmindedness and completely unjudgemental way of living and passion for justice. Much love, and to all my first cousins once and twice removed, including John and his wife Mindy. Miss you all. With best greetings from Germany, and would be happy to see any of you if you are traveling this way. It is an honor to be in this extraordinary family with all of you, the family of which Aunt Annabelle was the oldest surviving representative of a remarkable generation of people. May your hearts be comforted and may some of Aunt Annabelle's incredible combination of logic and differentiating powers of observation and analysis together with a pragmatic application of the meaning of faith and truth continue to inspire similar qualities in all of us who knew her. Your cousin, Julie, youngest daughter of Uncle John's little brother Frank Spencer.

Julie Spencer - January 30, 2022 at 08:07 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Annabelle Spencer.* ”



January 26, 2022 at 10:35 AM