



Ilena Merniva Aslin

August 16, 1926 - October 16, 2016

Ilena Merniva Aslin, 90, of Cape Girardeau, passed away Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, at the Lutheran Home.

She was born Aug. 16, 1926, in Bloomfield, Missouri, to the late Bon and Mirtie Aslin.

Ilena was a member of Maple United Methodist Church. She was a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University. Ilena taught school for seven years, and for 40 years she served as an executive director for the Girl Scouts. She retired in 1991, moved to Cape Girardeau and devoted her life to volunteering.

Ilena was an active volunteer and on the advisory council at SoutheastHEALTH, Retired Senior Volunteer Program/Volunteer Intergenerational Center, FISH Food Pantry, Missouri AARP Executive Council, S.A.L.T. Council and Red Cross blood drives. She was a member of the SoutheastHEALTH Board of trustees, the hospital auxiliary board of directors, Community Caring Council Aging Committee and several church committees and was a choir member.

Survivors include a brother, David (Ann) Aslin of Traverse City, Michigan; nieces and nephews, Lynda (Patrick) Frusti of Traverse City; Bonnie Tardivi of Henderson, Nevada; Janice Aslin of Traverse City; Richard (Juri) Aslin of El Cerrito, California; Medarda (Deck) Hoffman of San Antonio, Texas; Larry Aslin of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Raymond (Kathy) Aslin of Manhattan, Kansas; dear cousin, Ramona Brinkopf of Cape Girardeau; many great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Waynard Aslin; nephew, Michael Aslin, and sister-in-law, Joan Aslin.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Maple United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, with the Rev. Bryan Schaefer officiating. Visitation will be from noon until the time of service.

Burial will take place in Michigan at a later date.

Memorial donations may be given to SoutheastHEALTH Auxiliary or Maple United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Maple United Methodist Church
2441 Jean Ann Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Memorial Service

OCT **22**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Maple United Methodist Church
2441 Jean Ann Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

DR

“ Sorry to find this so late - I spent 12 summers at Camp Latonka Girl Scout Camp at Lake Wappapella Lake. She made the Camp run from dawn to dusk - hired wonderful staff to make it one of the best experiences in my life.

Wish I could go again. Donna Reed

Donna Reed - July 09, 2021 at 11:15 PM

JG

“ Ilena was Executive Director for the Girl Scouts in Hannibal, MO years ago - and I was a college intern who learned a great deal from her. She helped kick off my life-long career in Girl Scouting. She was a great lady, a real inspiration.

Joan Roads Gibson

Joan Gibson - October 30, 2017 at 05:20 PM

MN

“ Ms. Aslin was indeed was a perfect role model. I spent many years in Girl Scouts and always looked forward to seeing her. She always took the time to listen fully to mine and many other girls needs and questions. Indeed, Southeast Missouri has experienced a significant loss. My heart goes out to the Aslin family during this very difficult time. I wish I could find comforting words to ease your pain but I feel I cannot. I view her passing as God looking around His beautiful garden and saw He had an open spot, so He called her up to help Him. Needless to say, the Aslin Family and the Southeast Missouri Girl Scout Council has a very precious angel watching over them.

Mo (Ramona Hilton) Naramore

Mo Naramore - October 28, 2016 at 11:42 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Darcy Tuma Braun - October 22, 2016 at 09:26 AM

AM

“ *Ilena was a pleasure to know, and such an asset to her community and everyone around her. I have missed her presence in Stonebridge subdivision after her move to Lutheran Home.*

Anne McDonough - October 21, 2016 at 02:42 PM

LU

“ *Ilena poured her heart into the girls who attended Latonka Girl Scout camp. We in turn loved her back. Thank you for teaching us to enjoy music and the outdoors.*

Linda Underdown - October 20, 2016 at 09:34 PM

LS

“ *Just wanted to say how much Ileana meant to me. She was a mentor and friend. I think of her often. She gave me a jewelry box when she retired that I still use. Thanks for all your wisdom.*

Liz Swanson - October 19, 2016 at 10:30 PM

MW

“ To Ilena's family: she touched my life almost 61 years ago at Camp latonka. I think we all wanted to grow up and be like her. I have so many great memories of all those years with her at Girl Scout camp. Thank you for sharing her with us. Thousands if girls were touched by her life!!

Mary Anne Williams - October 19, 2016 at 08:01 PM

RM

“ Ilena was one of the most special people I've known. She always inspired me to do my best, to do what's right and to love everyone. It was my great privilege to sing with her for many years in the church choir. The world is a sadder place without Ilena. Ilena, I meant every word in that letter I sent you a few years ago. I love you. Tell mom & dad hi for me.

Robyn Morton - October 19, 2016 at 05:42 PM

JG

“ To Ms Ilena family: This lady contributed to my growing up by always helping in Scouts doing anything that needed to be done. She is truly one of those people that did so much on earth! God bless her, she is probably in charge of a flag ceremony or something already! Jennifer Puckett

Jennifer Guess - October 19, 2016 at 01:17 PM

CH

“ *Ms Ilena was always a devoted supporter of my youth programs when I was a Cape Girardeau Community Police Officer. She often donated time and cookies at neighborhood meetings or events at Schultz School. She will certainly be missed in the community.*

*Charlie Herbst
Cape Girardeau*

Charlie Herbst - October 19, 2016 at 09:00 AM

TD

“ I was so deeply saddened to hear the news about Ilena. She was very dear to me and my husband, Wayne. Words can't express how much of a hole that I now have in my heart. Not only did Ilena serve on the RSVP/VIC Advisory Council but she was a tremendous volunteer and human being. She fully understood the concept of being a volunteer; that it's the learning to love others through the idea of serving. Ilena brought encouragement and turned lives around in a much more loving and happier way than ever imagined. I know that because she had an impact on my life. Many times, I would call her to ask her advice about a problem or situation and she was always there for me. I can honestly say that Ilena Aslin made a DIFFERENCE in the lives of many people and that her gift of sacrifice and devotion to volunteer was an inspiration to us all.

*Tina Dohogne-Nations
Executive Director
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Volunteer Intergenerational Center*



Tina Dohogne-Nations - October 18, 2016 at 01:43 PM

 Crystal Goodwin

“ Girl Scouting had a huge impact on me and helped shape the woman I am today. I give much of the credit to Ilena. She set such a wonderful example to so many, even after leaving Girl Scouts. She had the heart of a servant and volunteered tirelessly! What a wonderful role model. I know that God is welcoming her, saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

Crystal Goodwin - October 18, 2016 at 10:34 AM

SS

“ I'm so saddened by this news. The world has lost a great light. Ilena was a role model to so many young women over the years. She touched a great many lives...she certainly touched mine. I've often thought how different my life might have been had she not been in it. I'm so fortunate to have known her, and my life is certainly enriched having known her. Bless you, Ilena. Go with God. He has an marvelous angel with Him now.

Sara Struwe - October 18, 2016 at 07:15 AM

MF

I must ditto Sara's comment as well as that of Crystal Goodwin. Ms. Ilena touched the lives of so many young women and adults over the years and our lives are the better because of it. Her smile and encouraging words were always so supportive and she never met a stranger. She led by example as she volunteered tirelessly and gave so much to so many for all these years. Thank you, Ms. Ilena for having touched my life and helping me to be the person I am today. And yes, God has a wonderful angel who is organizing groups and setting up volunteers in heaven!

Mary J Fieser - October 19, 2016 at 11:31 AM

DH

“ 11 files added to the album New Album Name



Diane Hall - October 17, 2016 at 05:13 PM