



Irene Lily Phillips

February 18, 1926 - March 27, 2020

Our dear Nana, Irene Lily Phillips, age 94, passed away Friday evening, March 27, 2020 at the Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau, MO.

She was born February 18, 1926 to William and Annie Mansell Dean in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, the youngest of thirteen children.

Irene spent her teen years in WWII England dousing fire bombs in her backyard and ducking into the bomb shelter built in the family's back yard or a public shelter if she were away from home. During this time she earned a two year degree from School of Commerce business college.

She also met the US Army-AirCorpsman stationed in England with the 362nd Fighter Squadron who would become her husband.

At the age of 20, Irene left England and sailed to the USA where she and Lewis Ellsworth Phillips were married December 8, 1946 in Mendon, Illinois.

Many funny stories were told of her transition from metropolitan England to rural USA during the early years of their marriage. Her husband preceded her in death February 12, 1990. They had two children, Cathryn Evans of Jackson, MO and the late Lt. Colonel David Phillips USAF retired.

Irene proudly received her U.S. citizenship in 1952.

She and her family moved to Quincy, Illinois in the 1950's, where Irene worked as private secretary and office manager at Packaging Corporation of America, and later in the business office of the Illinois Veterans Home. Making another funny story about her father-in-law thinking women should not be working and speaking to her husband about it.

While in England, Irene had worked as clerk-typist for J&G Meakin and OXO companies. One of her duties was to track the distribution of war rationed foods, including Spam, an American import that became a much needed meal staple in England during WWII.

Irene returned to Mendon, Illinois in 1980 when her husband retired. They remodeled the old Phillips family home and would spend time with visiting family, and gardening and canning. Especially loved by the grandchildren were the canned pickles along with homemade oatmeal cookies and breads. The beauty of the English garden they created in the back yard was enjoyed by all. Irene also had a great love of reading and volunteered at Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Irene lived in Mendon until 2008 when she moved to Jackson, MO close to her daughter and family. Years of great family time was had and wonderful memories were made.

Irene always enjoyed her friends, her family and traveling. Each summer, family vacation meant traveling to different states, later traveling to see the children and grandchildren from Missouri to California to Germany with a few trips back to England.

She and her husband continued travel after retirement pulling their trailer

across the country.

After moving to Jackson, Irene took trips to Florida to visit her son and his family and enjoyed several cruises with her son, daughter & their spouses.

In 2016 the family, from youngest to oldest, gathered on a cruise to celebrate Nana's 90th birthday.

In 2017, following a serious illness, Irene moved into Assisted Living West at the Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau, MO.

In Feb 2020, the family, from St. Louis, DeSoto, Tennessee & Florida gathered in MO to help Nana celebrate her 94th birthday at her daughter's house. Irene loved the celebration and thoroughly enjoyed visiting with everyone. It was a great time for all to have what would become the last celebration with our beloved Nana.

Days later she was admitted to the skilled nursing unit of the Lutheran Home which went on lockdown because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Irene was fortunate to have been surrounded by people who became good friends, and fantastic staff members at each of these homes along with the fantastic people from Southeast Hospice. The family is extremely grateful to all those who gave Irene such tender loving care.

Preceding her in death were her husband (1990); her son, David Phillips (2019); grandson, Steve Evans (2007); great-grandson, Blake McCain (2001); three brothers, Bill, Charlie and Arthur Dean; and nine sisters, Minnie Sargeant, Florrie Ashley, Kate Dudley, Annie Ellis, Violet Dean, Miriam Stanley, Amy Plant, Emily Harris and Doris Campbell in England.

Survivors include her daughter, Cathy (favorite son-in-law Jim) Evans of Jackson, MO; beloved daughter-in-law, Susie Phillips of Florida; granddaughters, Stacy Evans (Mike) Cossey of Scott City, MO, Carrie Phillips (Glenn) Castle of Lithia, Florida, and Kimberly Phillips(Craig) Battinelli of Spring Hill, Tennessee; great-grandchildren, Brock (Emily), Whitley, and Gavin Evans, Kayla McCain daughter of Stacy Cossey & Marine Private 1st Class Ethan Cossey, Brooke, Kylie, and Cole Castle, and Brody and Caden Battinelli; one great-great-grandson, Jaxon Colby Welker, son of Whitley; a niece, Margaret Fletcher who left England and lived with Auntie Irene before moving to Utah; niece, Diana Rae Poulter(Les) Voorhis of Ursa, IL; nephews, Gerald (Malinda) Poulter of Canton, MO, Bill (Sheila) Poulter of Hamilton, IL, Kevin (Pam) Phillips of Walnut, Kansas, Barry (Elaine)Plant of Wales, UK; nieces, Sandra (Benny) Bennion, Christine(Dave)Roberts and Susan Oliver & daughter, Sarah of Staffordshire, England; and numerous other nieces and nephews she had lost contact with over the years.

Cremation arrangements by Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Jackson, MO.

A memorial service and burial at the Garden of Peace, Quincy Memorial Park, Quincy, Illinois will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or to a charity of your choice.

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

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Dear Cathy, Susie and family,

Over 50 years ago now I was your neighbor when you lived in Quincy on Adams Street. I was told at our high school 50th class reunion that David had passed away and I was in chock and so saddened to learn about his death. You see, David was my childhood playmate. We played baseball, football, war and I “watched” as David high jumped in his back yard. He taught me to play chess on his back porch. David was my date in 7th grade at the Christmas dance. In the summer between our 7th and 8th grade Mr. and Mrs. Phillips invited me to go camping in their camper to Turkey Run State Park in Indiana. What a thrill! Mrs. Phillips was so good to me and it was and will always be one of my best memories.

Please accept my sincerest sympathy on the loss of your dear mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. You were truly blessed to have had her in your life and I know you will miss her dearly.

With deepest sympathy,

Debbie (Blankenship) Maple, Potts

Debbie Potts - April 04, 2020 at 07:50 PM

CA

Hello, sweet Debbie. I remember you so very well. I have pictures of leading you and David in playing your musical instruments and you and David dressed for the dance you mentioned. Thank you so very much for your very kind words. Best of everything to you and yours. Cathy Phillips Evans

cathy - May 20, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ *Such a true friend! Could always count on her to say just the right thing I needed to hear and I loved her like a sister!*

Irene Ulsaker - March 31, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ *What a beautiful tribute to your mother Aunt Cathy. She was such a special lady, who I know will be greatly missed. She lead a blessed life with an amazing family who loved her greatly. I pray that you all have comfort in the coming days.*

*Love,
Tracy, Jeremy, Avery & Camrin*

Tracy Lake - March 31, 2020 at 06:55 PM



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Debbie Heise - March 31, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ *Cathy, so sorry for your loss. I know you had many great memories of your mother and will treasure them in you heart.*

*With love
Woody and Jane*

woody salyer - March 31, 2020 at 01:53 PM