



Leita Rose Ballew Hensley

January 13, 1931 - February 15, 2016

Leita Rose Ballew Hensley, 85, died in her home at Saxony Village on February 15, 2016.

She was born on January 13, 1931 in Jonesboro, Arkansas to Virgil Ballew and Leita Lorene King Ballew. She married Jack Alton Hensley on December 27, 1957. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack on Nov. 14, 2011.

Leita worked for many years at SEMO as a Speech and Hearing Pathologist, both teaching classes and training students to work in the Speech and Hearing Clinic. She earned her BA from Hendrix College in Conway, AR, her MA from University of Denver, and her Ph.D. from SIU Carbondale.

She loved playing bridge and croquet, and she loved traveling, especially to London, where she participated in the Missouri-in-London program and visited multiple times after her retirement. In July 2015 she traveled to Stratford and Niagara-on-the Lake to the Shakespeare and Shaw Festivals.

She is survived by a son, Allen Alton Hensley, of Crystal Lake Illinois, daughter-in-law Margaret May Hensley, and two grandchildren, Claire and Sylvia Hensley.

She is also survived by a daughter, Jeanne Hensley Griggs of Mount Vernon, Ohio, son-in-law Ronald Kyle Griggs, and two grandchildren, Eleanor and Walker Griggs.

The memorial service will be on Saturday, February 20 at 11:00AM at Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 N Ellis St, in Cape Girardeau. Flowers may be sent to Centenary or donations can be made to the Southeast Missouri State University Foundation for the Jack Hensley Scholarship for Theater and Dance.

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

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

TK

“ *Leita was one of the finest and "funnest" ladies I knew. I loved playing bridge with her. We always had lots of laughs. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.*

Trish Kogge

Trish Kogge - February 21, 2016 at 10:51 AM

NF

“ *Such great memories being neighbors on Timber Lane and Centenary. So sorry we can't be there on Saturday we will be out of town. God bless and much love ~ The Noffel Family*

Noffel Family - February 18, 2016 at 07:40 PM

RE

“ *Leita was an outstanding professional with a great sense of humor. We loved the quick wit and the wonderful laugh. We enjoyed the opportunity to work with her almost twenty years.*


Ray and Carolyn Ewing

Ray Ewing - February 18, 2016 at 04:46 PM

JS

“ *Leita and Jack Hensley were great friends of mine! I treasure their memories! I will not be able to attend the service but I will be remembering your family in love!*

Jane Stacy - February 18, 2016 at 10:12 AM

 Tracie Henry

“ We were so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She will be missed by the girls at Hairport. Jessie sends her regards to all the family.

Tracie Henry - February 18, 2016 at 10:03 AM

DT

“ Darin Robinson & Precision Team purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Leita Rose Ballew Hensley.



Darin Robinson & Precision Team - February 18, 2016 at 09:57 AM

TK

“ Dear Jeanne:

Please accept my condolences at the passing of your mother. I occasionally think about Jeanne "Martini" and the fun we had as a group. I hope things are well with you.

*Theresa King-Hunter
Minneapolis*

Theresa King-Hunter - February 18, 2016 at 07:04 AM

CH

“ Dear Jeanne and Allen, I am so sorry for your great loss. I treasure fond memories of your parents. I loved their wit and their devotion to each other. I remember all the games we played at Iona's and Faxie's. I loved to hear them laugh. Please accept my deepest, heartfelt condolences. Sincerely, Charlotte Fairhead Hemphill

Charlotte Fairhead Hemphill - February 18, 2016 at 12:03 AM