



Stacia Lawrence Kasten

November 13, 1919 - February 25, 2017

Stacia Lawrence Kasten, 97, of Cape Girardeau, died Saturday, February 25, 2017, at Chateau Girardeau, surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born November 13, 1919, in Walker County Alabama, to Wallace Porter Lawrence and Sara Nell Propst Lawrence while on a timber buying trip. The family returned to their residence in Fayette, Alabama, where Stacia spent most of her life until she married and moved to Jackson, Missouri.

Only child to her parents and only grand-daughter to Carrie Cannon Propst and Henry Belton Propst, Stacia grew up loved by many in Fayette. As a devoted daughter, she faithfully assisted her mother in the care of her father during his extended illness. The friendships forged in her hometown lasted Stacia's entire life and provided her great joy. She and her best friend, Emily Grimsley Roper, met in their baby carriages and continued their life-long friendship until Emily's passing in 2013.

After graduating from Fayette County High School, Stacia attended Sophie Newcomb, Auburn University, and the University of Alabama. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. In 1941, she received an A.B. in Sociology from the University of Alabama and attended graduate school for one semester at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Between 1942 and 1948, Stacia held positions as a social worker with the County Welfare Department in Fayette, Alabama and the American Red Cross on Parris Island, South Carolina and as an artist with Brown Shoe Company in Nashville, Tennessee. From 1948 to 1957, she partnered in business with her mother in Fayette at the Palace Gift Shop. After moving to Missouri in 1957, she managed several properties and maintained business interests in Fayette.

Stacia met the love of her life, Vernon Louis Kasten, Sr., at a convention in New Orleans in 1950. After a long-distance courtship, they married April 13, 1957. While Vernon built his pottery manufacturing business, Ceramo Company, Inc., Stacia embraced life as a wife, homemaker and mother in Jackson, Missouri. She and Vernon enjoyed raising their two sons, frequently entertaining their family and friends, and traveling to many countries.

The Fayette First United Methodist Church held a special place in Stacia's heart. She and her family worshipped there for many years and she always made time to attend services when she returned for visits to Alabama. She joined St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jackson, Missouri after she married and subsequently raised her sons in the Lutheran faith.

She belonged to Chapter DJ, P.E.O. (a philanthropic and educational organization) since 1959 and served as president three terms; the John Guild Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1958 and served as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and chairperson for many committees; and the Concordia Guild. She volunteered for Teen Challenge and functioned as a Cub Scouts Den Mother. Stacia served on the Board of Directors for Ceramo Company, Inc., Kasten Masonry Sales, Inc., Kasten Clay Products, Inc. and Kasten Concrete Products, Inc. The Jackson Rotary Club recognized her as a Paul Harris Fellow and Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri awarded her the 2011 Faith in Action Walter J. Keisker Award.

A gifted artist, Stacia loved painting. She actively participated in several bridge groups and enjoyed playing the game well into her 90's. Always willing to open her heart to others and her home to guests, Stacia acquired a reputation as a hostess of wonderful parties for family, social, political and charity events.

One of her greatest joys was being a grandmother. She and Vernon, Sr. delighted in attending music and dance recitals, school functions and soccer games. They enjoyed playing games and surprising their grand-daughters with special souvenir gifts from their travels. Stacia taught the girls how to make the heirloom Christmas ornaments that she and her mother had fashioned to decorate her tree every year. Magical holidays at Grandmommy and Granddaddy's house will be remembered.

Survivors include two sons, Vernon Louis Kasten, Jr. (Stephanie Ruff Kasten) and Lawrence Cannon Kasten (Alison Lane Kasten) and two grand-daughters, Chloé Paige Kasten and Laurel Elizabeth Kasten. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and most of her close friends and relatives.

The family expresses love and gratitude to Debbie Diggs, Stacia's longtime caregiver and companion. Debbie was a blessing to Stacia and her family throughout the years, especially after Vernon Sr.'s death in 2004. Her dedication and love never faltered over the past 24 years.

Along with Debbie, the staff of Chateau Girardeau provided skilled and compassionate care to Stacia in the final years of her life. The Kasten family greatly appreciated the love of these caregivers.

Stacia will be remembered as a devoted and loving wife, cherished mother,

adoring “Grandmommy” and true Southern Belle. She had a keen wit and intellect, beautiful sense of style and exuberance for life. Her strong and loving presence will be greatly missed.

Friends and family may call at Ford and Sons Funeral Home on Mount Auburn Road in Cape Girardeau, Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The funeral will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jackson at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday. Burial will be at Russell Heights Cemetery in Jackson.

Memorials may be made to The Chateau Foundation, P.E.O. Foundation (P.E.O. 150 Fund) or Daughters of the American Revolution (John Guild Chapter D.A.R.).

Cemetery Details

Russell Heights

Jackson, MO 63755

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

SA

“ Sending condolences, prayers and much love from *The Arthur Family (Stuart & Misty)*.

Stuart Arthur - March 01, 2017 at 04:29 PM

JB

“ *Jeff & Sheryl Blackman purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



Jeff & Sheryl Blackman - March 01, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



March 01, 2017 at 09:53 AM

YI

“ *Your Friends at Berry Marketing, Inc. purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



Your Friends at Berry Marketing, Inc. - February 28, 2017 at 10:18 AM

“ Remembering Stacia Lawrence Kasten

By Becky Roper Matkov, February 27, 2017

Stacia and my mother, Emily Grimsley Roper, were best friends before they even knew it, with their nursemaids strolling their carriages side by side in the small Alabama town of Fayette. Mother and Stacia were born just a few weeks apart, Mother on October 22, 1919, and Stacia on November 13, 1919. Each was privileged--and burdened—by being the only child of protective parents.

They were best friends in first grade at the Fayette Grammar School—best friends at Fayette High School—where Stacia was voted the most intelligent and Mother the wittiest—best friends even as Stacia attended Sophie Newcomb in New Orleans and Mother, Judson College in Marion. When Stacia went to graduate school at the University of North in Chapel Hill, Mother decided that might be fun too—and a way to while away the time while she waited for her fiance to return from the Army. While there, Stacia introduced Mother to Russell Roper, the law student who would end up marrying my mother and becoming my father.

Stacia and I were also best friends--from the time I was born. During World War II, when my father was a Naval officer in the Pacific and my mother was living with her parents in Fayette, it was Stacia who raced Mother to the McNease Clinic, where I was delivered on June 29, 1944. Stacia always said I was half hers—and in so many ways, in temperament and personality, we did seem to be blood kin.

I called her “Aint Stacia”—and looked up to her as someone I wanted to be. She was artistic and creative—and said our mutually messy handwriting was a sign of intelligence. She laughed a lot and would swing us kids around in the living room. When we visited Fayette in the 1950s Stacia would often stop by my grandparents’ house at noon—just in time to have fried chicken, turnip greens and Jessie’s cornbread. She always wore bright red lipstick and circular skirts and big jewelry--and when she took me and my little brother to swim in the Fayette City pool, she wore a white swim suit and

looked like Elizabeth Taylor. She joked in her 30s about being just an old maid, but in my eyes she was way cooler than everybody else--she was a woman with a business and career.

Nevertheless, we all were happy when Stacia married Vernon Kasten in the Fayette Methodist Church. Mother was matron of honor and looked beautiful. Stacia in her long lace gown was glorious. Vernon grinned in appreciation. At the reception at the Lawrence home, guests filed through rooms filled to overflowing with wedding gifts of silver, crystal and china.

We were delighted when Stacia and Vernon had two sons, and we watched Vernon Louis and Lawrence grow up from rambunctious, adorably dressed toddlers to fine husbands and fathers.

Decade after decade, even though my parents lived in McLean, Virginia and Stacia and Vernon in Jackson, Missouri, they remained close friends, with occasional visits to each other's homes and Fayette. Stacia and Vernon were there to comfort my parents in 1966 when my brother was killed in an automobile accident. They were there to celebrate my wedding to Tom, and my sister's wedding to Scott. They were there for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary celebration in Hickory, N.C.

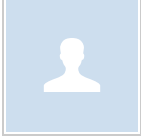
Stacia and Vernon visited us in Miami—going out on our sailboat--and I visited Jackson to see their new house.

In 2013, still grieving over the loss of her beloved Vernon, Stacia went to Hickory for a week to comfort Mother when my father died at the age of 96.

In recent years Tom and I had timed our business visits to Fayette so we could rendezvous with Stacia and Lawrence, all of us staying at the Rose House Inn. Never willingly giving in to old age, Stacia just made everything more fun. We treasured her good conversation, good humor and good advice. Most of all, we will always cherish the love and memories she shared with our family

for over 90 years. We will miss her so.

Becky Matkov - February 27, 2017 at 09:15 PM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



February 27, 2017 at 04:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



February 27, 2017 at 01:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



February 27, 2017 at 11:47 AM

YC

“ *Your friends at Rabbit Creek. Donna Cook purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stacia Lawrence Kasten.*



Your friends at Rabbit Creek. Donna Cook - February 27, 2017 at 11:29 AM

ML

“ *Deepest condolences. I'm so sorry for your loss, Vernon! Prayers to you, Stephanie and Chloe during this difficult time.*

Best, Melissa Lackey

Melissa Lackey - February 26, 2017 at 11:15 PM

AP

“ *Adelaide Parsons lit a candle in memory of Stacia Lawrence Kasten*



Adelaide Parsons - February 26, 2017 at 08:23 PM