



Ilda Marie Easterling

MAR 10, 1921 - APR 16, 2010



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Ilda Marie Easterling was born on March 10, 1921 in Montigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium to Victor and Claudine Hembise Finet.

She passed away in St. Helens, Oregon on April 16, 2010, at the age of 89.

Ilda was raised and graduated from High School in Montigny-le-Tilleul. She moved to Paris in 1939 to pursue a career in modeling and fashion design. She was active in the French Resistance Movement in Paris during World War II. Ilda met Colonel Robert Quentin Easterling during the liberation of Paris. They were married in Washington D.C. in 1949.

She earned a BA in French and MA in Foreign Languages from the University of Utah. She also earned her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature from Brigham Young University.

Ilda was a professor in the Foreign Language Department at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington for many years before retiring in 1991.

She moved to St. Helens in 2004.

Ilda traveled extensively throughout the world. At an early age her father nicknamed her Pigeon Voyager Homing Pigeon.

Survivors include: 3 children; Michael Linda Easterling of Rainier, Oregon; Caroline Finet of Santa Barbara, California; Richard Dianna Easterling of Cedar Park, Texas; Sister Hughette Servais of Montigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium; Nephew Gerald Martine Finet of Brussels, Belgium; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert Quentin Easterling and her brother Gustave.

Private inurnment will be in Montigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium at a later date.



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Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Peace Corps.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.columbiafh.com..



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

We were very sorry to hear of Ilda's death. She was a wonderful, intelligent, creative, beautiful, unique friend and colleague. Her home was a perfect setting for entertaining friends, meeting family, and serving elegant meals with a European flair. We remember that she would travel to Europe with empty suitcases so that she could bring beautiful antiques and small pieces of furniture back to the U.S.. Her French classes Anne audited were informative and entertaining, with much background on language and authors as well as everyday life in France and Belgium; Anne became a fan of Georges Simenon as a result of her classes. It wasn't surprising to learn that she had been a model in Paris, for people on the university campus would often ask, "who's the woman who looks like Elizabeth Taylor"? We had not seen Ilda very much since the turn of the millennium, but memories of times spent with her will always enrich our lives.##imported-begin##Anne & Clay Denman##imported-end##

April 24 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Did not have the privilege of knowing her for very long. Many good memories tho from getting call from her in Europe about stolen credit cards and sorting it all out not knowing the banks involved, to high centered lawn mower with all wheels off ground. She was a great host, fun to be with and firmly on her own planet. Now in a kinder place where the concierges don't gossip.My condolences to you all##imported-begin##Robert Stone##imported-end##

April 23 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I cannot even begin to fit all my happy memories of Ilda and the wonderful, wacky Easterling tribe into such a small space. A particular favorite was being re-introduced to "Mariette" the lamb sliced on a plate at Michael's and my wedding party in her gracious home, as well as having her great Tom Turkey terrifying all the guests into remaining indoors by gobbling fiercely from the porch? What a grand lady she was!##imported-begin##Leslie Stone##imported-end##

April 23 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

On behalf of the Central Washington University family, please accept our sympathy at this difficult time. We appreciate the contributions Dr. Easterling made to the university community and know many remember her fondly.##imported-begin##James Gaudino##imported-end##

April 22 at 5:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Ma mère était la personne la plus intéressante que j'aie jamais connu. Je vais lui manquer beaucoup. Elle a fait beaucoup de choses merveilleuses pour ses enfants, sa famille, ses collègues, et les gens qu'elle a rencontré et fait la connaissance à travers le monde. Au revoir Mama.##imported-begin##Richard Easterling##imported-end##

April 21 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My heartfelt condolences to you all. I was deeply saddened when I read her obituary in the Ellensburg Paper. I took beginning French at Central Washington University the Fall of 1981 from Ms. Easterling. She was such a great professor so kind. Foreign Languages were not my strength but I worked very hard for her class. She never made me feel bad or stupid and was always encouraging of my efforts in class. I distinctly remember she gave me a B in the class. I have never forgotten her. She stood out among all my professors.##imported-begin##Maurice Peterson##imported-end##

April 20 at 5:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Beth and I read of your mother's passing. We hope that the last few years of her life were fairly kind to her. We know that you and Linda suffered during this time. We're grateful for an opportunity to communicate with the two of you, but wish it had been under different circumstances. Love, John and Beth Hunnicutt##imported-begin##John & Beth Hunnicutt##imported-end##

April 20 at 5:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ilda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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