



Eileen Estelle Zneimer

January 9, 1928 - October 3, 2020

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Obituary

Eileen Hess Zneimer passed away in Portland, Oregon on October 3rd, 2020.

She was born on January 9, 1928 in Hammond, IN to Madge and Arthur Hess. She grew up in Hammond and attended Hammond High School. After graduating high school she went on to Ripon College. She was an exceptional student who enjoyed college life where she joined the Kappa Sigma Chi sorority (they were known as Duffie girls) and made life-long friends. She majored in English, wrote for the literary magazine, and was active in the theater. She performed in several musicals and dramas in the Ver Adest program including Hi there, Mister and Let's Call it a Day and also performed in the theater dance group. It was at Ripon, where she met her husband Jack who had just returned from WWII. Being in college with mostly women, she recalled how excited all the women students were when the men came back from the war.

After graduation she married and moved with her husband to New York City, and soon after her daughter Cary was born. They moved again to Iowa and then to Madison, Wisconsin where her son John was born. Then they moved to Indiana and had two more children (Maud and Peter) and settled in Hessville to raise all four children. She placed a high value on marriage and motherhood and was an amazing mother who brought creativity to everything that she did. She enjoyed going with the family to the beach and hiking along the coast with the family beagle Pierre leading the way.

There was never a dull moment at her home—lots of kids coming and going, musical instruments being practiced, art and science projects being created, scavenger hunts, various games and several rescued animals added to the fun. Kids and friends knew that they could come by for food or company.

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Eileen was active in the community, especially at the library where she created and performed puppet shows (who could target

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Bosco the mischievous dog!) When the kids were in elementary school she attended Little League games, led Brownie troops, was in the PTA and the League of Women voters. She was a devoted mother who never missed an opportunity to join in.

When the kids got a little older she went to Indiana University and completed her teaching certificate in English and did her practice teaching in Highland. She went on to complete her Master's degree in English from Purdue University. She never wanted to stop learning and had a passion for storytelling, movies and literature. Her extensive book collection lined every inch of her home from Virginia Wolf, Shakespeare, Pauline Kael, and John Updike along with many history, art and contemporary authors, she loved it all. She was go-to person that friends and family turned to when they needed someone to explain a plot or character, not to mention all the times she helped family members write papers, develop content, and correct grammar.

Her love of Christmas was unmatched—it was something her children (and later grandchildren) will always remember. She embraced the lights, the fun, the excitement, and the spirit of the season. Going to Chicago to see the Christmas tree at Marshall Field's, ice skating at the park, baking cookies and making homemade ornaments and gifts were just a few ways that she celebrated the season. She made sure that Christmas for her children was a magical time. She captured the spirit of Christmas and understood that the season was about caring for others with joy, warmth, and kindness. It was a tradition that was appreciated by all her family and carried on by her daughter Cary who many years later would show up at dressed up as Ms. Claus or an elf to surprise her on Christmas morning.

She enjoyed traveling and took great pleasure in all the places that enriched her life. Her favorite vacations were her many trips to France with her husband where she toured the cathedrals and relished the incredible food and art. She loved all the road trips with family and friends in this country too. Whether it was a trip in the family station wagon up the Michigan coast or the many road trips in the US, she was always ready to travel. She was so excited to go on her first trip abroad with her husband to Ireland and England to experience swinging London of the 60s. One year she took her children to Europe for an entire summer with her 19-year-old daughter Cary at the wheel. Driving around all the countries from Amsterdam to Rome in a VW station wagon was something remarkable and her children will never forget the many crazy encounters.

Later when Cary decided to move to Portland, she moved with her. There she enjoyed classes at Portland State University, trips to Cannon Beach, the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, film festivals, "First Thursday" art events, the Iris Festival, and just hanging out in the park blocks with her friends and family.

She is survived by her three children; John, Maud, and Peter; her grandchildren, Ann, Aaron and Stephania; her great-grandson Logan and her former husband Jack. (Cary died in an automobile accident in 2014.) Eileen was buried at RiverView Cemetery in Portland, Oregon next to her daughter Cary.

A special thank you to her wonderful friends in the SW University Park blocks and to her granddaughter Ann who helped to bring food, cheer, social distanced dinners, and other necessities during the height of the pandemic. She was truly blessed to have such caring friends and family.

We will forever remember her for her beautiful blue Irish eyes, her radiant smile, her adventurous spirit, her brilliant mind, her awesome sense of humor, and the joy that she brought to all of us.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Eileen, please visit our **Tree Store** or **plant a tree (https://tree-tc.tributestore.com/?old=22125098&tag=&tn=FreeTreeTestFC&otv=&source=tco_description&mtph=1)**.

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Events

There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by planting a tree in memory of Eileen Estelle Zneimer.

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