



Jean Rossi

November 18, 1920 - January 2, 2020

RICHMOND, Ind. – Jean Rossi, age 99, of Richmond, Indiana, died Thursday, January 2, 2020, at Friends Fellowship Community.

Born November 18, 1920, in Denver, Colorado, to Ira and Rose Irelan Thomas, Jean lived in Richmond for more than 80 years. She was a 1938 graduate of Whitewater High School. Jean and her family resided in a former log cabin known as the Vulcan Parsonage in Whitewater. When Dale Carnegie, author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People" delivered a lecture, with Jean in attendance, he was so impressed by her beauty and personality, he suggested to his friend, Lowell Thomas (who was Jean's first cousin) to support her entrance into college. Lowell agreed and Jean entered Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee, in 1940. One of her work requirements was to wait tables in the cafeteria. Jean was assigned the athletes' table and as fate would have it, during her freshman year, she met Peter Joseph Rossi, a football and baseball player. They married on May 31, 1940. When Pete entered the Army in 1941, Jean became a bookkeeper at the Second National Bank, where she would work for 50 years, retiring from the Star Bank, on March 27, 1991. They enjoyed 68 years of married life, before Peter died on June 18, 2009.

Jean possessed a number of passions. She loved travel, baseball (especially the Reds), and she had a life-long interest in theater, initially as a performer and later, as a spectator. Jean was an avid bridge player, playing in local duplicate bridge clubs; a piano dilettante; and she possessed a wonderful sense of humor. She loved "playing the market," keeping up with financial news, almost until the end of her life. Jean was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Since Jean was not known for her cooking, she and Pete often ate out, frequently at The Cracker Barrel so she will miss greeting the wait-staff, in particular, manager Mark, where she was a loyal customer for almost a quarter of a century. Jean, however, did contribute to Indiana's culinary culture, where she won an award (third place) for her "Green Bean

Tres Bien" recipe, which apparently is Indiana's state casserole, as this dish is appropriate for almost any Hoosier social event.

Survivors include her son, Thomas (Leslie Kiersted) Rossi of Binghamton, New York, and granddaughter, Jessica Rose Rossi of Eugene, Oregon. In addition, Jean is survived by Richard Blose of Cicero, Indiana, who was like a son to her; her financial adviser and friend, Tony Talbert; and during the last decade, Jean was grateful for the care and support of aide and caregiver, Sandra Shackelford.

A celebration of Jean's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, January 19, 2020, in the Community Room at Friends Fellowship Community, 2030 Chester Boulevard, Richmond.

Arrangements are being handled by Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond. Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Events

JAN **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM
19

Friends Fellowship Community
2030 Chester Blvd., Richmond, IN, US

Comments



“ I worked with both Pete and Jean at SNB for many years and loved them both. Jean was a very special person with a great sense of humor.

Pam Davis - January 13 at 11:11 AM



“ Tom, your mother and father were great friends of my parents, Mac and Nadine Hollopeter along with Petie and Earl Wiggins. Your mother and mine were in bridge clubs together. I remember her dry sense of humor and frankness. I still can hear her voice. One memory I have is your mother getting a haircut that she said made her look like Julius Caesar! Your mom gave mine two tablecloths that she no longer wanted because they required ironing. In turn my mother gave them to me because I had often admired them. So whenever I bring them out to host a special gathering I think of your mother. Such a wonderful gift to have had her around so long. My condolences to you and your family.
Kim Hollopeter Kelley

Kim Kelley - January 09 at 04:06 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Ward Colson and the Staff of Doan & Mills - January 07 at 04:25 PM