



Rosemary Evelyn Hamilton Williams

May 7, 1919 - June 14, 2021

TOLEDO, Ohio – Rosemary Evelyn Hamilton Williams, age 102, loving widow of Dr. John Williams, mother, grandmother, cousin, and friend, passed away peacefully at Swan Creek Ohio Living in Toledo on Monday, June 14, 2021.

Rosemary graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, in 1940, and majored in music and art. She met her future husband, John Williams, while attending Earlham, and they were married for 60 years before John passed on. Before starting their family, Rosemary taught elementary school music and art. Their first child, Monty, was born in 1942, followed by Patia, 1952, and Cherie, 1955. The family moved to Shipshewana, Indiana, where John began his first medical practice. Rosemary devoted her time to homemaking and raising three children. She cooked, played piano and violin, sewed dance recital costumes, planted and harvested a yearly garden, attended the Church of the Brethren with her family, sang in the “Keynoters”, and made sure all three of her children received music lessons, which was very important to her. Many summers, family members attended a weeklong Friends General Conference (for Quakers), held at college campuses around the country.

As her children became adults, Rosemary had more free time to devote to her love of music. In 1972, the family moved to Toledo where Rosemary joined the Toledo Symphony and later the Jewish Community Center Orchestra, which then became the Sylvania Community Orchestra. She played violin until 99 years of age. It was not unusual for her to arrange a string quartet to come to her home on a Sunday afternoon and play for hours. For over 20 years, Rosemary attended the Interlochen Summer Adult Music Camp with her fellow musician friend, Cyril Zilka. Throughout those years, Rosemary made many dear friends.

Rosemary grew up just west of Centerville, Indiana, on the Gates family farm with her mother, grandmother, auntie, and uncle. She was an only child, with one friend who lived across the field. They would meet and play at a big rock on the fence-line when their chores were done, sometimes leaving notes for one another. She remembered the smell

of the homemade candies that wafted throughout the rooms of that big, old farmhouse every Christmas. Because there was a persimmon tree on their farm, she learned to make persimmon pudding. The family ate “oatsy-doatsy” (oatmeal) every morning for breakfast. Rosemary was a beloved child.

A special quote: “My grandma showed us all that life is vibrant and full of opportunity. She taught us to never give up on dreams and even more important, that dreams come true only with hard work and dedication. Grandma taught us the value of the arts, particularly music.”

Rosemary was a sparkle among her many friends and family. Her collection of hats and turquoise tortoise-shell glasses defined her sense of fashion. The family attributes Rosemary’s longevity to alternative and functional medicine.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. John Williams; parents, Rose and Leland Hamilton; grandparents, William and Flora (Ranck) Gates; auntie and uncle, Elsie Mae and Everett Gates, and beloved cousins, Genevieve Munson and Graham Gates.

She is survived by her son, Monty (Ginger); daughters, Patia and Cherie (Bruce Hammond); grandchildren, Kelson Williams, James Sootheran, Colette (Matt) Anderson, and Kristi Hammond; cousin, George (Olive Mae) Ranck; nieces; nephew; and many friends.

Visitation for Rosemary E. Hamilton Williams will be at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 W. Sylvania, Toledo, on Friday, June 18, 2021, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 7:30 p.m. following the visitation. A visitation will also be held at Mills Funeral Home, 405 East Main Street, Centerville, Indiana, on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 2:00 p.m. Her interment will immediately follow the service at Doddridge Chapel Cemetery, 9471 Chapel Road in Centerville.

Cemetery

Doddridge Chapel Cemetery
9471 Chapel Road
Centerville, IN, 47330

Events

JUN 19 **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM
Mills Funeral Home
405 East Main Street, Centerville, IN, US, 47330

JUN 19 **Funeral Service** 02:00PM - 03:00PM
Mills Funeral Home
405 East Main Street, Centerville, IN, US

Comments



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

Gary Brown and the Staff of Doan & Mills - June 16, 2021 at 04:39 PM