



Elizabeth Herring

October 26, 1926 - April 11, 2024

Elizabeth “Bunny” Herring passed away peacefully on April 11, 2024 at home on Rockford Farm. Family, friends, dogs, parakeets, flowers from neighboring gardens, operatic arias, and love filled her room all during her final days.

Elizabeth was born on October 26, 1926 in St. Louis, the daughter of Ira E. and Elizabeth (Forrest) Wight. She was a graduate of Garrison Forest School whose motto “Esse Quam Videri” she tattooed on her ankle. In December 1949, she married Skyler “Swede” Herring. This marriage lasted until his death 55 years later.

She was a descendent of the founding family of St. Louis, Madame Chouteau and Pierre Leclède. Another line started in Maine in the 1700’s and over time became a prominent family in New Orleans. Elizabeth rebelled against her expected path by studying ballet in New York then running away to Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus where she rode horses and elephants. She left the circus upon falling in love with Swede, her cowboy. They settled in his hometown of Encampment, Wyoming. In 1955, they moved to Rockford Farm in Eolia where they raised their four children, and she pursued passions of horseback riding, gardening, opera, ballet, travel, and cooking elaborate dishes.

At points, Elizabeth worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse and a real estate agent. She went to Washington University later in life, earning a Masters in English. She worked with others to bring opera to Pike County with the 1982 performance of The Beggar’s Opera in the Clarksville Apple Shed. She

devoted years to Prison Performing Arts, volunteering and sharing her endless love of Shakespeare and theater. She participated in the establishment of Circus Flora in St. Louis. She was an active member of St. John's Church in Eolia followed by Trinity Episcopal Church when she returned to St. Louis after sixty years away. A constant was a love for the arts and animals, especially dogs and horses. She exemplified living life to the fullest, finding adventure in each day.

Elizabeth is preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Ira E. Wight III, John Wight, and Nancy Wight; and her son, Timothy Herring.

She will be missed dearly by her children, Holly Maffitt of Eolia, Skyler Herring of Eolia, and Heather Bonham of Savannah, GA, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Eolia on June 5, 2024 at 11:00 am. Following the service there will be a Bunny worthy celebration at Rockford Farm.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Prison Performing Arts or Circus Harmony, two organizations dear to Elizabeth's heart. Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana, MO is provider of cremation rites.

Tribute Wall

E(

“ *Elenora (Traynor)Lobb lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Herring*



Elenora (Traynor)Lobb - August 08, 2024 at 07:34 PM

AH

“ *Annie Laurie Hulen lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Herring*



Annie Laurie Hulen - June 04, 2024 at 10:12 AM

AH

*Sending hope and peace to you Holly and all the family. Your mother was an inspiration to all who knew her.
Annie Laurie & Mason*

Annie Laurie Hulen - June 04, 2024 at 10:14 AM

BL

“ *My most heartfelt condolences to Elizabeth’s family. In 2008, I sang Otello with Union Ave opera, and Elizabeth was my hostess. She was as gracious and fun as one could possibly imagine. I met her daughters, and a granddaughter, I stayed for a day at the farm, and toiled around with her son...so many wonderful memories! Alas, despite several efforts, I never made it back to St Louis-I spending more time with her was always my goal. She is loved, and she will be missed. The next time I sing arias, it will be in honor of her.*

Brian Landry - April 19, 2024 at 09:15 AM

JB

“Bunny” was my favorite friend when she lived in Brentwood Forest. We used to go out to eat together and did our shopping together to. When she learned that I had studied ballet, she took me to prison to help her teach the kids there. Of course she taught the men, Shakespeare. She invited my husband, father and I to see her trapeze act for her 90th birthday. I remember a dinner party at her place where people brought food from their native countries. That’s where I had Ethiopian food for the first time. My husband was born and raised in Italy and the amount of times they discussed was mind blowing. It would go on for hours. She texted me one day asking me if I wanted a baby goat insisting that I could hid it inside me condo in Brentwood Forest. She came to my husband’s funeral in 2018. She was my husband’s favorite Brentwood Forest person too. He and I loved her pictures from her circus days in her condo. I know she had an incredible life surrounded by family and friends from all over. What a beautiful life. I know she was 97 when she passed, but it’s still too soon. She was one of those people who you think would never pass away. I’ll miss her terribly.

Jennifer Bozzato



Jennifer Bozzato - April 17, 2024 at 05:52 PM

LL

“ So sorry to hear of Bunnie’s passing. She was a graceful lady by all accounts. Such a friendly person to everyone. I have never in my life read a book quite like hers but was so interesting and definitely showed a different side of her. My condolences to the family. Linda Barnes Leopold

Linda Barnes Leopold - April 15, 2024 at 01:22 PM