



Nell Roennigke

Alton | Thursday, January 21 2010

Nell Patricia [Pat] Roennigke passed away at the age of 87 from complications due to congestive heart failure on Jan. 21, 2010. Pat was married for 39 years to Erv Roennigke, a combat veteran of WWII who loved to serenade her with "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree." Pat and Erv made quite a striking couple; she was less than five feet tall while he was well over six feet. Erv died in 1986 and now Pat is sitting with him again under that apple tree.

Pat had two children, Becky and Rob, who loved her dearly but sometimes had to pretend to enjoy her "experimental" dinners that went awry. Pat had a younger sister, Barb, who shared Pat's love of shopping, particularly shoes.

Pat lived her entire life in the Alton-Godfrey area. She was raised a Methodist and converted to the Church of England when her mother, Reba McGuiggan, started playing the organ for St. Paul's Episcopal. She made one last conversion to the Lutheran church after marrying Erv. Pat wanted to study medicine but gave that up to work with her father, Alexander McGuiggan, at Standard Oil of Indiana [Wood River] during WWII. She was the church secretary and choir director at Trinity Lutheran [Alton] during the fifties and sixties and was a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Godfrey.

Pat participated in many community organizations that included: PEO Chapter GG, White Cross Auxiliary, Upper Alton Women's Club, Alton Community Service League, Greater Alton Concert Association, Friends and Neighbors through Resurrection Lutheran Church and the Alton Civic Orchestra.

Pat is survived by her daughter Becky Crawford [husband Nick and their daughter Jennifer Skikas, her husband Steve and their children Nick and Ben] and son Rob Roennigke [wife Jane and their two children Bradley and Vanessa]

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to either Resurrection Lutheran Church or NAMI Madison County.

Visitation will be at 12:00 p.m. until time of funeral service at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday at Resurrection Lutheran Church with Pastor Ken Tegtmeier officiating. Burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and additional information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.