



Esther Williams

East Alton | Friday, January 7 2011

DATELINE: East Alton

NAME: ESTHER MARIE WILLIAMS

AGE: 94

DIED: Friday, January 7, 2011 at Alton Memorial Hospital ER

BORN: June 2, 1916 in Otterville, Illinois

PARENTS: Mark Julius and Edith Ida (Wahle) Bethel (Both deceased)

1st MARRIED: Aden Abbott in 1935 he passed away in 1937

2nd MARRIED: Chief Warrant Officer Howard Wilson “Sonny” Williams

in 1940 he passed away in 1979

OCCUPATION: When Esther was four, the Bethel family moved from

Otterville to a farm three miles south of Brighton. She graduated from

Brighton High School as Valedictorian of her class. Esther spent twenty

years as an army wife, living in California, Illinois, Germany,

Virginia, Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and North Carolina. After her husband

“Sonny” retired from the military, they returned to Illinois and

operated a lunch counter in Reese's Drug Store in Godfrey for approximately 17 years. During this time, she earned an Associate's Degree in Accounting at Lewis & Clark College. After they retired from the lunch counter, she especially loved being outdoors and thoroughly enjoyed her flowers.

MEMBERSHIPS: Military Officers Club and Esther was also a Girl Scout leader.

VISITATION: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 11, 2011

At Alexander & Gubser Funeral Home in Jerseyville

FUNERAL: 10 a.m., Wednesday January 12, 2011

At Alexander & Gubser Funeral Home in Jerseyville

OFFICIATING: Rev. David Brown

BURIAL: Vallhalla Cemetery in Godfrey

MEMORIALS: American Cancer Society

SURVIVORS

2 DAUGHTERS: Alberta Marie (Walter) Phillips of Edwardsville and Sandra Dawn Williams of Edwardsville

1 BROTHER: Robert Warren (Lenora) Bethel of East Alton

1 SISTER: Edith Annette (John) Herman of Edwardsville

1 DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Leslie Williams

2 GRANDSONS: Keith Andrew Phillips and Christopher Howard Williams

4 GRANDDAUGHTERS: Heather Joanne Phillips, Deborah Jane Williams,
Jacqueline Elizabeth and Victoria Alexandra Vogel

11 NEPHEWS, 3 NIECES, 10 GREAT-NEPHEWS, 8 GREAT-NIECES AND 1
GREAT-GREAT-NIECE

2 SISTERS-IN-LAW: Carolyn Jennings and Daralene Bethel

PRECEDED IN DEATH BY: Parents and Husbands, Brother: Howard Earl

Bethel, 2 Sisters: Dorothy Ruth (Herbert) Etter and Rosemary Jean

(Robert) Anderson, a Son: Bruce Howard Williams, a Grandson: Mark Folger

Phillips, a Nephew: Timothy Howard Bethel, and a Great Niece.

ALEXANDER & GUBSER FUNERAL HOME

IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS