



Rosemary Strohbehn O'Connell

February 20, 1923 - July 17, 2014

Rosemary S. O'Connell departed to be with her Lord on July 17, 2014. She was born on February 20, 1923, in Reinbeck, Iowa, to Roy and Jessie (nee Mitchell) Strohbehn.

She earned a B.S. degree from Iowa State University and did graduate work at the Merrill-Palmer Child Development School in Detroit and the Bank Street School in New York City.

Rosemary met "Al" (Alva David O'Connell), the love of her life, at college, and they married on June 27, 1944. Together they lived in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kentucky, and Texas. Rosemary's insatiable curiosity about the world was demonstrated through her travels to all 50 states as well as to 5 continents.

During World War II, Rosemary taught in war nurseries and a school for the deaf. After her children were grown, she served as Director of the Alliance Christian Academy in Louisville, Kentucky.

She experienced profound contentment and joy in her roles as wife and mother. She often identified herself as a homemaker, giving thoughtful attention to creating a healthy environment where her family thrived.

Rosemary's trust in God filled her life with peace and hope. She was devoted to serving her Lord, her family, and her church. During her 43 years in Tyler, she was a faithful member of Fifth Street Presbyterian Church. She will be remembered as "Goldie" by the Pioneer Girls and as "Nurse Jane" by her extended "Uncle Wiggily Rabbit Family."

Rosemary was preceded in death by her best friend and husband of 63 years, Al O'Connell, and by her brothers Harold, Merle, and Roger Strohbehn. She is survived by daughter Carol Meeker and husband Arlo of Windsor, N.Y., daughter Elaine Watkins of Carlsbad, Calif., son Tim O'Connell and wife Connie of Louisville, Ky., daughter Ruth Ann O'Connell and husband John of Tyler, eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Dale and wife Priscilla Strohbehn, brother Kenneth and wife Barbara Strohbehn, sister Eleanor Sandbach, sisters-in-law Harriett Strohbehn and Cheryl Strohbehn, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and honorary family members.

Friends are invited to greet the family on Wednesday, July 23, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Fifth Street Presbyterian Church. A victorious memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, at 1:00 p.m. at the Stewart Family Funeral Chapel. A time of visitation will follow the memorial service.

Burial will be at Amity Cemetery, Reinbeck, Iowa, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Mission Fund at Fifth Street Presbyterian Church (1616 E. Fifth St., Tyler, 75701); the American Cancer Society (P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718); or a mission or charity of choice.

Previous Events

Mem. Service

JUL **24.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

CS

“ 30 files added to the album Rosemary O'Connell



Chris Stewart - July 25, 2014 at 10:42 AM

MF

“ Marcia and Tom Benninger and family purchased the Garden Accent - "My Mother kept a garden..." for the family of Rosemary Strohbehn O'Connell.



Marcia and Tom Benninger and family - July 24, 2014 at 09:46 AM

MB

“ Your Mom (and Dad) will always be two of the dearest, sweetest, most helpful and prayerful saints we have been blessed to know on earth! Our hearts are with you today as you celebrate your Mom's life and thank the Lord for His light that shone through her!

Love,
Marcia and Tom Benninger

Marcia Benninger - July 24, 2014 at 09:39 AM

GS

“ Grant, Susie & Kelli Strohbehn, Wesley & Anna Strohbehn purchased the *Written in the Stars* for the family of Rosemary Strohbehn O'Connell.



Grant, Susie & Kelli Strohbehn, Wesley & Anna Strohbehn -
July 23, 2014 at 09:02 AM

DH

“ It seemed that GE brought us together with Rosemary and Al. When meeting Al for the first time in 1967 at Appliance Park in Louisville, KY it was evident he was someone special. Then upon meeting Rosemary we knew we had met two warm, caring and exemplary Christians. Both blessed our lives immeasurably as well as our son's when Rosemary was director of the Buechel Christian School. Rosemary has continued to bless our lives during visits (the last one 2 years ago in our home), phone conversations and correspondence. We will miss knowing she is no longer in Tyler but rejoice in knowing she is with her Lord and beloved Al. The picture accompanying her obituary says so much - her warmth, love, and caring spirit. We are grateful that Rosemary and Al have blessed our lives.

Don and Mary Ann Hall
Crestwood, KY

Donald Hall - July 22, 2014 at 07:50 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rosemary Strohbehn O'Connell.*



July 22, 2014 at 01:00 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosemary Strohbehn O'Connell.*



July 21, 2014 at 11:14 AM



“ *Remembering the many ways I admired and was blessed by Aunt Rosemary: the down to earth, no nonsense delivery of her opinions, the courage she modeled as a school principal which later helped me decide to do the same and the really 'down to earth' approach she took to her sacred afternoon naps! I will miss you, Rosemary, but I'm also glad you're home. Nephew Patrick*

Pat - July 18, 2014 at 01:52 PM