



## Althea L. Hosek

August 12, 1920 - August 27, 2012

Born August 12th 1920 to Hugo "Boots" and Harriet (Reavy) Lehnen, Althea E. Lehnen - "Thea" lived a full life to age 92 - active and independent. Modest beginnings in Springfield IL and living through the depression in high school was not enough to keep this woman from making her mark and touching the lives of all those around her. A 1938 graduate of Springfield High School, she was on her own at 19 as a working woman traveling and living independently. She spent the years of WWII in bomber plant production - like so many of the "greatest generation" doing her part.

Post war years would find Thea on the beach in Miami, FL - a setting she would return to throughout her life. She loved the ocean and it was on the beach she would meet her future husband and life partner Robert "Bob" H. Hosek. Fresh from the European Theater Bob had earned his wings as a B-25 pilot and would make a career of the US Air Force; they were married December 28th 1948. Over the next 17 years Bob would advance from Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel and the family would relocate six times to as many states and territories. With each USAF relocation, Thea made sure any air base billet was a warm home for her growing family and those in need, something stray dogs seemed know.

Family was Thea's priority as she and Bob raised three sons, Mike, Bryan, and Eric. Bob retired as a command pilot in 1966 after 25 years in the cockpit. With the military behind them, Thea would make herself known in the private sector. Bob's new position with Square D (Schneider Electric) found the family in Peru, IN. It was in this north central Indiana town Thea would give to her community just as she had her family - it was home for the next 25 years. Thea's family would grow once more with the adoption of Janie (Yare) in the late 60's. Thea's list of accomplishment in the 70's and 80's would make any family and community proud. From non-profits to local business involvement, Thea was on the board and getting things done for the United Way, Big Brothers & Big Sisters and the local Chamber of Commerce.

During this period Thea was named Peru's Woman of the Year and then later Miami County's Citizen of the Year (the first woman to receive this honor). Along the way she became a successful realtor and a leading fundraiser. Thea enjoyed many years in retirement with the Colonel, seeing more of the world and spending the summers in Montana and returning to the beaches of Florida for the winter.

After sixty years together, she was preceded in death by Bob in 2005, and her beloved older sister Eileen Saxer. To the end, she was proud and supportive of all her children and loving to her seven grandchildren.

Throughout her life Thea was a woman of charm, strength, poise, intellect, beauty, and grace. It was easy to tell where Thea stood for she lived her values and Christian beliefs out in front for others to see. She was not afraid to speak up against injustices, to support the right idea, or to lend a hand to others less fortunate, seeking nothing in return. The world

was a better place for her actions and she lifted others up with her.

Thea passed peacefully in her home on August 27th, having lain down for a nap, she did not awake. Thanks for everything, Thea - rest easy in your faith, you earned it. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19th in Bloomington IN at the Trinity Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church.

Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 Bloomington, Indiana is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org)

# Tribute Wall

BP

“ Mike,  
Sorry to hear about your mother's passing, although it sounds like she led an amazing life. I still miss my mother, and imagine you will as well; she must have been quite a presence in your life.

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**Bill and Priscilla Manwaring** - March 22, 2013 at 08:17 AM

CH

“ Michael, Brian and Eric-  
Seeing your beautiful mother's picture brought back so many memories...sitting at the Hosek kitchen table for dinner, Eric states "Hey, Mom. You've got it all. Mike has the brains, Brian has the bod and I have the terrific sense of humor!" Washing Mr. Hosek's little Mercedes in exchange for a ride in it...eating quacamole for the first time when I'd never even heard of avocados..Mrs. Hosek spearheading a retirement event for my Realtor father because my mother was not all that interested in entertaining.  
Janie, we have never met but during visits to Peru I did hear about you as Mrs. Hosek talked of you with pride in her voice. Although she had three perfect sons, I'm quite sure she always wanted a daughter.  
Thea, you departed this life as you lived it- with grace and dignity. Thank you for your example and kindness.  
With love,  
Christy Wells.

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**Christine Wells** - March 22, 2013 at 08:17 AM

RT

“ Dear Eric, and family, We are sorry to here of your loss. We both can only hope that you and your family can find comfort in your memories.

*Our Sympathy, Rick & Tammy Craig*

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**Rick & Tammy Craig** - March 22, 2013 at 08:17 AM

JK

“ We are certain that right now, arm in arm, Bob and Thea Hosek are looking into Our Saviour's eyes--giving the rest of us strength to persist in meriting Heaven! What a bright light she shone for all she encountered--Mike, Brian, Eric and Janie--you have had a wonderful example for warmth and love. This account of Thea's life is a beautiful tribute.

*Our prayers and blessings are with you all.*

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**Joey and Sid Kubesch** - March 22, 2013 at 08:17 AM

DD

“ Thea and Bob were dearest friends. We spent a great deal of time with them when we all lived in Peru, Indiana. They both were outstanding individuals and contributed to their community. They went the extra mile for their friends. Bob has been missed for several years, and now we will miss Thea. We thank God that we had many happy years together. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

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**Don & Donna Grate** - March 22, 2013 at 08:17 AM