



Hana Benes Wilson

May 11, 1912 - December 9, 2012

Hana Benes Wilson, 100, died Sunday, December 9th, 2012, at the Meadowood Health Pavilion. She was born May 11th, 1912, at Ratbor, Czechoslovakia, the daughter of Olga and Ota Mandelik.

She spent her childhood and young adulthood in Prague. During World War II, she wrote and edited articles for Victory magazine and covered the founding of the United Nations--in San Francisco--as a journalist.

She was married to Vaclav Benes. They moved to Bloomington in 1950, where Vaclav taught Government and Hana later taught Czech and literature in the Slavic Department, at Indiana University.

After Vaclav's death, she married William E. Wilson, a distinguished professor in the English Department.

Hana is survived by two daughters: Eva Hanhardt and Nina Hajda, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, as well as a nephew, Peter Mandelik. She also had three step-sons, five step-grandchildren, and four step-great grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, December 15th, at 10:30 a.m.

at Saint Charles, 2222 East Third Street, Bloomington. The family will receive friends in the church lobby, at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be given to the Slavic Department at I.U., in her memory, to set up a scholarship for the study of Czech.

Allen Fuenral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

LU

“ Dear Eva,
Please accept my sincere condolence on your mother's passing. It just so happened that my mother also passed away last year, in October. But my mom was only 85, a youngster compared to your mom's 100, an age I thought my mom could live to also. Now their physical bodies have left us, but their love will live in us forever.
Luming

Luming Frumkin - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

DA

“ Dear Eva and family;
On behalf of the Driskell family, I'm very sorry to hear about your loss.

Please be consoled by your friends and by the length and depth of your mom's time on earth.

Hope to see you soon. Remember the warm days and she'll live forever.

DANA DRISKELL - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

SB

“ *Eva and Nina--how sorry I was to learn of Hana's death and how many fond memories I have of you, Hana, Vaclav, and Hana's parents. You and your family were the first to welcome us to Bloomington, and my siblings and I grew up a few doors away and felt that you were a second family. She lived an extraordinary life and was such a good example of grace, hard work, and devotion to family. I shall miss her very much! My sympathy to both of you and to your families.*

Susan

Susan Byrnes Wallace - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

SB

“ *Dear Nina and Ewa,*

Jill and I grieve for you and your mother. But we celebrate a long life devoted to her family, her friends, Indiana University and her motherland, the Czech Republic. I shall always remember her grace, her intelligence, and her spirit. I shall never forget her opening words when I last saw her in April 2012: "What do you think of Obama's foreign policy?" A humanist and a citizen of the world, she was forever generous. Her decision to walk away from large family properties expropriated by the Communists after 1948 and to leave them to poor Czechs manifested the quality of her soul and her humanity. Your mother defined elegance and brought the best of the Old World to Bloomington. We will all miss her, but we all benefitted from her presence in so many ways. Love, Shaun & Jill

Shaun & Jill Byrnes - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

BK

“ Dear Eva and Nina,
What an amazing person Hana was, and how wonderful that she was able to celebrate her 100th birthday surrounded by her loving family. She embraced her "steps" as part of her own family, and we loved her dearly. We know how much you will both miss her. -- Love from Bill and Kathie

Bill and Kathie Wilson - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

DA

“ Hana was my mother's very dear friend; they knew each other for 60 years and shared many beliefs and values. The brightest time in my mother's final days was when Hana visited her. I am very grateful that Hana was her friend and that Hana was my friend too. I feel quite fortunate to have known her and also to have gotten to know her daughters and their families.

David Collins - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM

EM

“ Dear Eva and Nina,
I'm sure you are celebrating your Mom's life. One hundred years is quite an accomplishment.
I remember Eva coming to play with my sister, Linda.
I am sorry for your loss.
Eva Mae Key Lloyd

Eva Mae Lloyd - October 26, 2015 at 04:13 PM