



Josephine Spear

October 30, 1917 - June 7, 2011

Josephine Spear, associate professor emeritus, School of Education, Indiana University, passed away Tuesday at the Meadowood Retirement Community. She was born October 30, 1917 in Bedford, Indiana, to H. Clifford and Beryl (Foster) Spear. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Bedford. In 1939 she received an A.B. in English from DePauw University, where she was a member and treasurer of Kappa Alpha Theta. She earned Masters and Doctorate Degrees from Indiana University. She first taught in Bedford and Mishawaka junior high schools. After three years as chairperson of the English Department at Warren Central, Indianapolis, she came to Indiana University as an English instructor in the University School. From 1950 until 1970 Spear was the chairperson of the English Department in the University School. In 1970 she was transferred from the University School to the School of Education. In 1983 she retired as chairperson of English Education, School of Education, Indiana University. For the Indiana University Correspondence Division, Spear wrote secondary English courses 9-12. Her primary publications, however, were high school literature textbooks, two in English literature and one in world literature: *Adventures in English literature* and *Ideas and Patterns in Literature IV*. Her professional memberships included

National Council Teachers of English, Indiana State Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa. She was a founding member of Gamma Associates Chapter of Tri Kappa. She was a member of Altrusa International, DePauw and Indiana University Alumni, IU Foundation, Woodburn Guild and Varsity Club. She was also a member of the 10-20 Investment Club and the Bloomington Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae. Survivors include her nephew, Kenneth J. Eitel (Jacquelyn) of Greencastle; her niece, Joanna Batchelor (Miles) of Greenwood; and six grand nephews: Anthony, Patrick, Adam, Jacob, Matthew and Ethan Eitel. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Elizabeth Eitel. There will be no funeral service. The family will receive friends from 11am-1pm Saturday, June 11, 2011 at Allen Funeral Home. A private family interment will be held at Cresthaven Memory Gardens in Bedford. Memorial contributions may be made to the IU Lilly Library, 1200 E. Seventh Street, Bloomington, IN 47405-5500 in memory of Josephine.

Tribute Wall

ER

“ I attended University High School from 1954-1958, and Miss Spear was my English teacher in some of those years. I remember her as a caring and effective teacher who demanded that you do your best work. She is one of the few teachers that I remember 50 years later! She was one of the people who made my life better. Sincerely, Eric Martz, Professor Emeritus, Dept. Microbiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA

Eric Martz - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

JM

“ Miss Spear was one of the best teachers at UHS. While she was sometimes strict, she was fair and she knew her subject. Many of her students have fond memories. It sounds like she lived a long and fulfilling life. I am sure her influence will continue within each of her nieces, nephews and grandnieces and nephews. But her passing is sad for us all.

Janeth Murray Welch - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

CD

“ I was saddened to hear of Miss Spear's passing. I have many fond memories of her at University High School and on some of the Indiana University Alumni Association athletic trips. May you be comforted during this time.

Cathy (Manifold) Dunham - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

AP

“ Only a few weeks ago, fellow UHS '55 alum Marina Snow and I, remembering our high school days, agreed on how much we each had benefited, over the years, from Ms. Spear's English classes. I loved the English language (although Dutch was my first spoken language). Ms. Spear taught us the wonders of good language as expressed in writing and the importance of having respect for our words and for our readers by using appropriate style and correct grammar. I've never forgotten Ms. Spear or her wise lessons. Her legacy will remain with those of us who were privileged to have been among her many students. Our condolences to her family.

Anne Marie (van Wagtendonk) Petty - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

LO

“ Jo Speak was my most favorite English teacher. She expected our respect and dedication, and I worked hard to do my best for her. Can you believe I even liked to diagram sentences? She was the best!

Louise Griffin - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

ME

“ I was one of Miss Spear's many students at University High School, which I attended from 1948-1952. I remember her as an excellent and caring teacher who expected and inspired us to do our best. I am sorry to learn of her death. My condolences to family and friends.

Margaret

Margaret Edmondson Olson - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM

RI

“ I took Senior English from Miss Spear in 53-54. I did more to prepare me for IU than any other high school class. She was a very classy lady, I will miss her.

Dick Anderson, UHS 54

richard anderson - October 26, 2015 at 04:24 PM