



## M. Ellen Stewart

June 4, 1929 - May 14, 2015

Margaret Ellen Stewart, 85, died on Thursday, May 14, 2015. She was born on June 4, 1929, to Lester Bert and Cecil Parcher Swartz in Streator, Ill., where she grew up. She was a 1951 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University where she met her future husband, Perry V. Stewart. They were married on June 24, 1951. They lived in Pekin, Ill., New Albany, Ind., and Hagerstown Md., before settling in 1966 in Bloomington where he was editor and publisher of The Herald-Telephone, now The Herald-Times, and the Bedford Times-Mail.

After his death in 1970, she raised their five daughters, continued to devote time and resources to a variety of non-profit community programs and became a successful businesswoman. She was strongly independent and generous, not only to three generations of her family but also to the community at large.

She served on the boards of Bloomington Hospital, the Monroe County Red Cross, Monroe County United Way and First United Methodist Church. She was a Girl Scout leader, and volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Planned Parenthood, P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) and Psi Iota Xi, Zeta Chapter, and their Thrift Shop. She loved sports and was a lifelong supporter of YMCA

programs. She was a founding member of Girls Inc., and helped organize their first geranium sale, now an annual community tradition. She also was a long-time adviser for Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

Along with several other women, she founded Century 21 All Seasons Real Estate and later owned and operated Stewart's Hallmark gift stores in Bloomington and Columbus. She retired and sold her Stewart's Hallmark store in Bloomington in 2004.

She enjoyed gardening, travel and investing and was a keen observer of current events, reading three newspapers a day, until the effects of Alzheimer's disease slowed her down.

She is survived by her daughters: Carolyn Walters (William "Buck") of Bloomington; Kay Stewart (Hunt Helm) of Louisville, Ky.; Gale Stewart of Evanston, Ill.; Judy Stewart of Bloomington and Nancy Holland (Roger) of West Chester, Ohio; eight grandchildren: Sarah Tynan; Benjamin and Charles Helm; Katie Keeler (Cooper), Lisa Stumpner (Loren) and Scott Riggins (Brittany); Eric and Thomas Holland; and three great grandchildren. A fourth great grandchild is due on her birthday, June 4, 2015.

She is also survived by her brother, Edward Swartz (Shirley) of Appleton, Wis., sister, Virginia Cary of St. Louis, Mo. sister-in-law, Jan Swartz of Indianapolis, and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, her brother, David Swartz, preceded her in death.

Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2015 at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 South Old Highway 37, Bloomington.

A visitation at 10 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4th St., Bloomington. Burial will be in Forrest Township Cemetery, Forrest, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to:

Perry and Ellen (Swartz) Stewart Endowment Fund for  
TheArgus,student newspaper

Office for Advancement

Illinois Wesleyan University

1322 Park Street, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

Monroe County Y For All Campaign

Monroe County YMCA, Southeast Branch

Attn: Heather Gustafson

2125 S. Highland Ave.

Bloomington, IN 47401

Condolence may be sent to the family at  
[www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org)

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ *My sincere condolences to your family and friends. What a lovely lady. Thank you for all you have done for the community.*

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**Jenn Brown** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

DI

“ *I can never forget the wonderful and gracious woman Ellen was to me. Patient and kind and always with a smile. Such a wonderful roll model to all working women. It was a joy to know her and my heart is sad at her passing. She never missed a beat about business and it was always a learning experience for me. So glad she was part of my life.*

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**Dianne McBride** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

MA

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Ellen's passing. She was a lovely person who touched the hearts of many. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Treasure your memories, as I know you will. Love, Mary Anne*

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**Mary Anne Thacker** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

DO

“ *Just a customer I have missed her helpful ways in the store. Deepest sympathy at your loss.*

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**Dorothy Korb** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

BD

“ Hello Gayle:

*The sad news of your mother's death has just reached me. May fond memories soon replace the tears. Wishing you and your family godspeed in your healing. Your parents never really leave you; they just move into your soul.*

*Delta love and hugs,  
Roger and Betsy Donley*

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**Betsy Yarbrough Donley** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

ND

“ Please accept our sympathy in the loss of your mom/grandmother. Praying for you during this time and that you remember wonderful memories.

*Sincerely,  
Nancy, Harry and Daniel Turner*

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**Nancy, Harry and Daniel Turner** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

MP

“ I am so sorry to learn of the death of your mother and grandmother. She was certainly a strong role model for women and a lot of fun. I enjoyed talking with her in her Hallmark store and loved the stories of her activities shared by Carolyn. Sending deepest sympathy. May your many good memories comfort you and help her to live on.

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**Mary Popp** - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM