



## Sarah Stava

March 18, 1929 - March 20, 2020

Sarah was born in Annapolis, Maryland to Professor Richard Heise (who rose to be appointed Registrar of the US Naval Academy) and Eloise Heise (nee Styron) on March 18, 1929. Brothers Dick (USN), Bobby (USAAF), and Billy (USN) served bravely and honorably in WWII. Brothers Jack and Charles were too young to join. All have preceded her in death. She graduated from Annapolis High School in June 1947, and then was employed with Annapolis Gas and Electric Co. until her enlistment in the U.S. Air Force in August 1951. Sarah received basic training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas and then attended stenographic school at Arizona State in Tempe, AZ. She was assigned to HQ Crew Training Air Force at Randolph AFB in Texas. While there, she met and fell in love with Staff Sargent John Stava and they were married on May 9, 1953 in the base Chapel. Sarah was honorably discharged in August 1953. At that time women were not allowed to remain on active duty once expecting a child.

For over 28 years Sarah, John, and their family (which would grow to six children) relocated to military assignments in the Pacific, California, France, Colorado, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, England, and North Carolina. After retirement from the Air Force, they moved to Bloomington, IN in 1987 for John's second career as a Civil Servant at Crane Naval Weapons Depot.

Sarah was not only a wife and mother, volunteering at endless school, Scouting, and other functions, but also worked for the Belk's department store

chain and finally in the sports ticket section at Indiana University. She volunteered at Opportunity House in Bloomington and had a wide circle of great friends through the Bloomington Newcomers' Club and American Legion Post there.

Sarah leaves behind her husband John and cherished children: Karen (husband John Grantham) of Goldsboro, NC, Jim Stava and wife Holly of Portland, OR, Janet (husband Carl Best) of Indian Wells and Sacramento, CA, JoAnn (late husband Jim Chastain) of Tampa, FL, Julie (husband Joe McSoud) of Centennial, CO and Lori (husband Matt Cutka) of Temecula, CA. A legacy of thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren are spread throughout the country.

Throughout her long life, Sarah loved to travel, play cards and games, and was an avid reader. She was also a loyal follower of the Boston Celtics, the Atlanta Braves, Rickie Fowler of the PGA, and Indiana University basketball. According to her wishes, Sarah's earthly body will be cremated. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be announced to friends and family at a future date. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Hospice Foundation at: [iuhealth.org/iu-health-foundation](http://iuhealth.org/iu-health-foundation).

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ I knew Sarah when John was assigned to Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, NC. We attended Adamsville Baptist Church together. She was always a kind and quiet person. I'm sorry I lost contact with her. Brings back sweet memories of our friendship!

*Jawan Eidson, Goldsboro, NC*

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**Jawan Eidson** - March 26, 2020 at 10:01 PM

EP

*The Stavas are such a wonderful family and the Posey's send love, prayers and wonderful memories*  
*Emilee Posey*

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**Emilee Posey** - March 27, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Allen Funeral Home and Crematory** - March 25, 2020 at 07:55 PM