



Elsie J. Willett

June 12, 1921 - October 13, 2015

Elsie J. Willett, age 94, formerly of 100 S. Park Ave. Manito, Illinois passed away at the Hopedale Medical Complex in Hopedale, Illinois on October 13, 2015. Born June 12, 1921 in the town of Manito to Christopher J. and Bessie Tackman DeSutter, she married Harold R. (Hal) Willett on November 24, 1945 in Manito at the Community United Methodist Church. Mr. Willett preceded her in death on October 29, 1992 as did her son H. Daniel (Dan) Willett on February 3, 2011.

Survivors include a son John Owen and Denise Kennedy Willett of Culpeper, VA.; two daughters, Christa Willett Robinson of Clearwater, FL. And Jacqueline Letitia Willett of Morton, IL. Elsie is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Elsie was a 1939 graduate of Manito High School and a December 1942 graduate of Bradley Polytechnic Institute (Bradley University) with a BS in Business Administration. She then went to work during WWII at the Oak Ordinance Plant in Illiopolis, Illinois and returned to central Illinois after the war to work briefly as an x-ray technician at Proctor Hospital in Peoria.

She was a devoted wife, loving supportive mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, active in school gatherings and PTA functions. All while raising her children, she found time to help within the community. She was a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Community United Methodist Church and served as a Lay Leader to the Methodist conference for 6 years. She was the first Board President of the newly formed

Mason County Health Department and served for 8 years. She was a charter and Life member of the Manito Historical Society and one of the original founders of the Holiday School for the handicapped in Pekin, Illinois. Elsie was known to all as a happy and generous woman and will be sorely missed. She loved her gardens, music by Andre Rieu and collecting antiques. She will live on in the minds and hearts of those that knew her and the impression she left in their memories. Elsie will be greatly missed in the Willett family but her spirit and passion will forever be celebrated.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Saturday October 17, 2015 at the Community United Methodist Church in Manito. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. at the church with Rev. Kathy Clark officiating. Interment will be in Meadow Lawn Cemetery immediately following.

Memorials may be made to the Community United Methodist Church or to the Forman Valley Foundation, both in Manito.

Maas-Hurley Funeral Home in Manito is in charge of the arrangements. To leave an online condolence go to www.hurleyfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Meadow Lawn Cemetery

Manito, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Manito Community Methodist Church - Manito
109 S. Washington
Manito, IL 61546
(309) 968-6226

Funeral

OCT 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Manito Community Methodist Church - Manito
109 S. Washington
Manito, IL 61546
(309) 968-6226

Tribute Wall



“ *Elsie J. Willett*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I am so very sorry that I missed this as I sat in ICU with my mom. Elsie, you helped me find a window to my own past. You were my aunt Evelyn's best friend and you showed me around my grandparent's home in Manito. You are a very special person in my life. I'll see you again one day. Take good care of my grandparents and my parents and the rest of my family. I'll see you soon! God bless you!*

Grace Isenberg Friedrich - January 30, 2016 at 05:47 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to john and the family. I loved Elsie and her stories. When my brother, Rick would spend the night at their house, I went with mom to pick him up and visit with her. Elsie was kind and very easy to talk to. She was a real lady! Julie Schacherbauer Gale*



Julie Gale - October 19, 2015 at 08:07 PM



“ I was deeply saddened when I heard today of Elsie's passing. Growing up, as one of the "neighborhood surrogate" mothers to many of us, Elsie was always friendly, caring, kind, accepting and generous. Stern when she needed to be (and I/we certainly deserved it at times), she always was respectful and encouraging to all of us. Later in life, whenever we happened to run into each other, she always made a point of saying Hi and taking a little time to catch up. She was a great Lady, and I am a better person for having her acquaintance. My heartfelt sympathies to John, Christa and all the family members. She was a blessing to the village of Manito, and will be sorely missed. Tony Reynolds.

Tony Reynolds - October 18, 2015 at 09:49 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elsie J. Willett.



October 15, 2015 at 10:05 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elsie J. Willett.



October 15, 2015 at 03:42 PM

KS

“ *We are very sorry to hear about Elsie.*

Such a sweet lady and grand personality.

May you find love and comfort in our Lord's arms.

Steve and Kim Singley



Kim Singley - October 14, 2015 at 04:44 PM

AN

“ *I will always remember our visit to her home .*

She was so interested in her Dutch history .

I felt an immediate bond with her through our Dutch Roots.

I know she will be sorely missed Anco

Anco - October 14, 2015 at 03:18 PM