



Eileen Ridgway

April 5, 1921 - April 8, 2005

Eileen Mary Ridgway, 84, Seattle, died Friday, April 8, 2005.

She was born April 5, 1921 in Cherryvale, KS, the daughter of the late John J. and Ellen French Ridgway of Coffeyville, KS, and sister of the late Harriett Ridgway Halpin, Topeka, KS and of the late Col. USA (Ret.) John J. Ridgway, Jr. Overland Park, KS. She is survived by her sister, Philomena (Mrs. William) O'Connell and her brother, Bill Ridgway of Bedford, TX; numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and Godchildren.

Miss Ridgway was a former member of Holy Name Parish, graduated from Holy Name School, Coffeyville Memorial High School 1938 and attended one year at Coffeyville Junior College. She received her diploma from Providence Hospital School of Nursing, Kansas City, KS. She received her B.S. Degree in Nursing from Saint Mary College, Leavenworth, KS. M.S. degree in Nursing Education from St. Louis University St. Louis, MO; and a Ph.D. in Administration of Higher Education from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Miss Ridgway was a former Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing at Seattle University, Seattle WA. She served on numerous local, state and national committees and Boards in the interest of Nursing Education and

Ethics.

She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Nursing Society.

Miss Ridgway was honored with a scholarship established in her name by Seattle University, the Eileen Ridgway Sigma Theta Tau Scholarship Fund.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 11.

In Coffeyville, Kansas, visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Holy Name Catholic Church, where a rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at the church with burial following at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The Eileen Ridgway Sigma Theta Tau (SST) Scholarship Fund, School of Nursing, Seattle University, 900 Broadway, Seattle WA 98122.

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, Topeka, is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eileen Ridgway*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Dear Family,*

In the late 70's Eileen Ridgway befriended my husband and I. We just celebrated our 25th anniversary and thought of Eileen. For a wedding gift she gave us the ultimate picnic basket (which we still have and use) filled with food, utensils and a lovely bottle of red wine. Being naive we opened the bottle of wine sealed with wax...and realized we were to open this 25 years after we were married. We enjoyed the bottle and often think of Eileen. She was a friend to people of any age. She was an educational leader and a leader in nursing. We are thankful she was part of the fabric of our lives.

Maureen Blum - August 13, 2005 at 01:03 PM



“ *Dear Family of Eileen Ridgeway:*

I knew Eileen years ago when she was dean at Seattle U and I at the University of Washington. She was a lovely person, always interested in others, always wanting to be positive and helpful. Through her leadership she built a very fine school of nursing and which has many wonderful graduates. Her keen intelligence was such an asset to our group. Although I had not seen her for many years I was sad to learn of her death, but too late to attend her services. My deepest sympathy to all of you.

Rheba de Tornay - April 23, 2005 at 06:13 PM

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“ Dean Ridgway, to me, was a leader and authority figure as I was a nursing student under her leadership in the "70's". Although I was an older student, mother of four, I was new to being in the position of "student" and in awe of Dean Ridgway's knowledge and experience. I will never forget her initial address to our nursing class, it has stayed with me ever since. It has always influenced my thoughts and feelings about my role as a nurse and my responsibility to my patient. I was aware my actions were important but God was in charge. She truly began the process of opening my eyes to how a university education was going to change me and my life. It was a privilege to be there, under her leadership, and changed how I viewed the world for ever more. I know she is in the hands of God, and lives on in the many students she has touched.

Lois Egenes - April 11, 2005 at 05:03 PM

MB

“*Eileen was a special lady and a special friend. I met her shortly after she arrived in Seattle wearing a very special hat. She was a colleague, Dean, and friend, managing the various roles in our relationship through the years. She was a fashion "role-model" especially in her gorgeous Irish tweeds (remembered best in lavender shades), and her much-loved hats and shoes. She influenced the dress of the faculty, who appeared in slacks the day after she dared to wear them on campus. She also had a tremendous effect on the School of Nursing and initiated some courses for students that were very creative and involved people from other disciplines. She spoke out for her beliefs and affected the direction of nursing in the state and national organizations, particularly while she was Dean.*

Eileen and I became special friends after retirement, and especially during the past few years. We had lunch together frequently, and talked about a wide range of subjects. Recently segments of our conversation focused on readiness for death, and Eileen was ready to welcome and embrace her new life. She shared some comments that I will always remember and treasure.

Eileen was a blessing to me, and I shall miss her tremendously. However, I am content, knowing she is at peace.

Mary Bartholet - April 10, 2005 at 04:45 PM