



Shirley B. Ballou

June 17, 1928 - September 26, 2019

Shirley B. Ballou of Topeka, Kansas, died September 26, 2019.

Shirley was born June 17, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of Elwood O. and Martha Frach Langill. She attended Illinois Institute of Technology, was president of Delta Zeta Sorority, and was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" 1947-48. Shirley was Girl Scout Neighborhood Chairman, enjoyed golf, several bridge groups and was active in Shepherd's Center of Topeka.

Shirley married Arthur D. Ballou August 14, 1948, in Chicago. He died March 2000. Her brother, Donald, also preceded her in death.

Shirley is survived by her three children, Donna William (Michael) of Denver, Colorado, Douglas Ballou (Nancy Whitworth) of Weatherby Lake, Missouri, and Steven Ballou (Diane Swarts) of Topeka; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Shirley was cremated and by her request, no memorial service is planned. Private inurnment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of donor's choice, sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ Shirley B. Ballou

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Dear Diane & Steve,
Sympathy goes to you and your family at this time. I have not seen you since we moved back from Florida. We are now living in Osage City. Think of you often

Sincerely, Kay & Eric Kopp

Kay Kopp - October 05, 2019 at 05:59 AM



“ Our condolences to the friends and family of Shirley. Shirley has been our neighbor for years and was always the most friendly and interesting person on the block. I loved our chats by the mailbox and am so glad my wife and I got to spend some time chatting with her in her home a couple of weeks ago. She was proud of her children and grandchildren. Shirley was sharp until the end be it on politics, history, or her Jayhawks, I tried to never miss the opportunity to learn from her. I'll miss her yelling at me to stop shoveling her snow because she wasn't going anywhere and five minutes later tossing me a couple of beers in the snow bank while I finished. I'll miss her dotting over Fitzgerald, our dog, when we would meet while I was taking him out for walks.

Rest in Peace Shirley, you lived well.

Love,
Nathan and Sheena Schmidt

Nathan Schmidt - September 30, 2019 at 10:03 AM

VM

“ Vickie and Rich McReynolds
8 hours ago

We met Shirley at Bridge at Shepherd's Center Topeka. She was one of our favorites there. She loved helping both my husband & me be better players. She also loved to visit with us about our travels. Shirley sure was smart, accomplished in many ways, had a great smile, sense of humor, & laugh. She loved you all and leaves a Godly legacy. Grace and Peace. † Vickie & Rich McReynolds

Vickie and Rich McReynolds - September 29, 2019 at 08:00 PM

CS

“ I am sorry for your loss. Shirley was a good friend to my mother and I am so glad I got to know her better when she joined us for Mom's birthday lunches. She never mentioned that her birthday was one day before Mom's. I just found out when I talked to her about the end of July. She and Mom were both characters and I enjoyed Shirley very much. My brother, Dave, and I will contribute to Susan B Komen for breast cancer in memory of Shirley. Connee Scott

Connee Scott - September 29, 2019 at 02:37 PM

DS

“ Oh, how I loved your mother. Shirley Ballou was one of the kindest women I have ever known. She had a very distinctive voice and because of caller ID, when I would call, she wouldn't answer, "hello this is Shirley," but "Good morning Debra." I have kept a message on my phone because she tells me how much she loves Shepherd's Center and how much she appreciates all that I do as Director. Now, I will cherish just having her voice with me. Shirley enjoyed passing out name tags at our events. She loved meeting and visiting with people. She particularly loved quality programs and it wasn't unusual for her to leave me a message on Fridays after Adventures in Learning to give me feedback about programs she had attended and really liked. I learned so much from her about playing bridge and she never took the game so seriously that she wasn't willing to help others become better players. In fact, she seemed to get as much satisfaction from a newby making their bid and playing the hand well, maybe more so, than winning herself. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren and thankful for their attentiveness to her. I don't need to tell the family that she wasn't the only one blessed - YOU were blessed. Your Mom/Grandma's death leaves a hole in my heart. Debra Stufflebean



Debra Stufflebean - September 29, 2019 at 09:22 AM

VM

We met Shirley at Bridge at Shepherd's Center Topeka. She was one of our favorites there. She loved helping both my husband & me be better players. She also loved to visit with us about our travels. Shirley sure was smart, accomplished in many ways, had a great smile, sense of humor, & laugh. She loved you all and leaves a Godly legacy. Grace and Peace. 🕊️ Vickie & Rich McReynolds

Vickie and Rich McReynolds - September 29, 2019 at 11:46 AM

BS

Steve,
Your Mother was a wonderful person. I met her at Shepard's Center playing bridge on Thursday afternoons. She was so nice to me and greatly improved my game. She had the biggest smile and heart! She will be greatly missed.

Bobbi Showalter

Bobbi Showalter - September 30, 2019 at 07:15 PM

RO

Rob, Shirley was such a kind lady I will miss her cheerie personality ,my condolences to her family ,it was a pleasure to work for her she really liked to keep her place nice.

robert - October 01, 2019 at 01:48 AM

CH

It is so hard to lose a friend, one who is so special! I lived in Topeka for only several weeks when Shirley invited me to play bridge with a group that enjoyed eating together in the mall. She made me feel so welcome and enjoyed helping me meet the group and teaching me some bridge. I loved being with her as she made me feel so welcome.

Your family has had a wonderful Mother and Grandmother to love. Thank you for sharing her with me....

carolyn heaton - October 04, 2019 at 06:06 PM