



Hildreth Houston Spencer

January 8, 1927 - July 30, 2018

ADRIAN- Hildreth Houston Spencer died Monday, July 30, 2018, at home. She was born in Adrian, Michigan, on January 8, 1927, the only child of James Houston Spencer and Cornelia Miller Spencer. She leaves no survivors.

After graduating from Adrian High School in June 1944, Hildreth attended Ohio Wesleyan University and received her B.A. degree in 1948. She received her M.A. degree in History in 1949 from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Years later she earned her Ph.D in History from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Dr. Spencer taught for two years at a private school in Wisconsin, Milwaukee-Downer Seminary. In 1952 she became a member of the History Department at Highland Park High School. She remained in the Chicago North Shore suburb for 32 years as a teacher and administrator. In 1956 she pioneered her district's participation in the Advanced Placement program for Modern European History. This program was-is under the auspices of the College Board in New York.

Hildreth was selected by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey to serve on a five person board to write both the essay section and multiple choice questions on the A.P. test for Modern European History as well as a portion of the S.A.T.

As part of her Sabbatical year in 1981 she worked for both her school and the College Board as a liaison with the Advance Placement program and the

International Baccalaureate in Europe.

In 1984, Hildreth was honored to be one of the speakers at a National Convention for the National Endowment for the Humanities in Phoenix, AZ where she presented a paper, and led a seminar.

She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Adrian, Phi Beta Kappa National Scholastic honorary and various professional organizations. She also was a member of The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Lenawee Country Club, The Sarasota Yacht Club, and an Adrian group known as Alpha Omega. She had served on the Boards of the Lenawee Humane Society, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra, The Family Awareness Center, and The Sarasota Opera Association in Florida, where she spent many winters.

In 2009, Adrian College recognized her as an Honorary Alumna. At the Adrian College Commencement ceremonies in 2012, Hildreth received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters.

Her passions were her love for animals, books, classical music and world travel from 1950 until 2001, when travel abroad turned burdensome.

Although she had no family for several years, Hildreth was blessed with having had many dear friends throughout her long and happy life.

As Hildreth leaves no survivors, there will be no visitation. Funeral services will be held in Herrick Chapel on the Adrian College campus on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., with the former 16th President of Adrian College, Dr. Stanley Caine officiating. A luncheon will be served following the service. Burial will take place following the luncheon at the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Lenawee Humane Society or the James Houston Spencer and Cornelia Spencer Memorial Music Scholarship at Adrian College. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.wagleyfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Herrick Chapel, Adrian College
110 South Madison Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
barb.wagley@wagleyfuneralhome.com

Burial

AUG 7 (ET)

Oakwood Cemetery
East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Tribute Wall



“ *Hildreth Houston Spencer*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Sending love from Patricia Wood - childhood friend of Hildreth. Pat named her son Spencer after Hildreth. They were friends for 91 years - such a tribute to them both.*

Elizabeth Wood - December 08, 2018 at 05:03 AM



“ *I'll always remember hildreths lecture on winston Churchill .she brought him to life for me.she was an asset to our building at 101 . She will be very missed. With sympathy, Phyllis And Mario Gigante.*



Phyllis Gigante - August 02, 2018 at 01:16 PM



“ *Hildreth's father, Dr. James Spencer, was my piano instructor, and the Spencers became very good friends of my family. My folks and I built a music studio on Lake Adrian for her father and after his death, Hildreth remained a good friend, who reached out to me as a great comfort when my mother passed. Hildreth's sharp wit, frank opinions, and penchant for "not suffering fools gladly" made her a character of renown. Her dedication to her causes, especially animals, was well known and appreciated. Hers was a life of intensity and purpose. She did not leave a family, but she left us all something more. Requiescas in pace, amica mea.*

Alan Ballenberger - August 02, 2018 at 10:05 AM

JB

“ *Hildreth will be greatly missed and I am thankful that our paths crossed many years ago and appreciate the animal advocate that she displayed in so many ways. I will miss baking her holiday goodies and will never forget her kindness.* ”



Jan Barss - July 31, 2018 at 10:36 PM

MD

“ *I really enjoyed Hildreth's words of wisdom, she truly loved music and animals I really enjoyed serving her when she would come out for Dinner at the LCC* ”

Marge Deo

Marjorie Deo - July 31, 2018 at 01:36 PM

LS

“ *Hildreth's and my parents were good friends and the Spencers were frequent guests at our cottage on Sand Lake where I took Hildreth in our motor boat on rides around the lake. I was perhaps one of her oldest friends in Adrian. She was about 12 years old then.* ”

Landis Stewart - July 31, 2018 at 10:17 AM

MC

“ *What an amazing woman, with an incredible mind, a huge heart and much compassion for animals. Gone but never forgotten. ❤️* ”

Marcie Cornell - July 30, 2018 at 06:02 PM