



Elinor J. Bright

September 16, 1939 - September 29, 2023

Elinor Bright, age 84 passed away on Friday, September 29, 2023. She had been a resident of both Heritage Woods of Manteno and Watseka.

Before leaving Kankakee, she was employed as a telephone operator. Later, in Chicago, she worked as a secretary and ultimately, as the Business Manager of Cardiology at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Elinor attended Northwestern University, graduating with an honors degree in Psychology and inducted into the Alpha Sigma Delta Honor Society.

Elinor was active in local theatre, a member of the Chicago Stage Guild, and a recipient of prizes for short stories and poems.

Those who knew Elinor well say that she was a thoughtful, generous, and attentive friend, and that she had a sardonic, but self-deprecating wit – the result of rigorous self-examination.

She herself said that she believed in and tried to follow the definition of success that newspaper columnist, Ann Landers, described in 1984, declaring that except for the “Golden Rule” these were the best rules for living that she had ever heard or read.

“Success means something different to all of us, to me it means self-esteem, which is the best defense against petty gossip, envy, unfair criticism, and naked lies. Success means having intelligent friends and honest critics. It means the ability to laugh at yourself and feel real pain when someone good is in trouble. To appreciate the best in others and acknowledge short comings in ourselves, that is success.”

Surviving are several lifelong friends, numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, nephews and great grandnieces and nephews.

Elinor is preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Joseph (Theresa) Bright, Dorothy Bright, Elsie (Joseph) Menard, Betty (Mario) Sebastiani; one nephew, Joseph Bright; and two nieces, Mary Beth Yeates and Robin Bright.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at Schreffler Funeral Homes, Kankakee.

Private inurnment will follow.

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Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel

1900 W. Court St.

Kankakee, IL 60901

(815) 932-2421

<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ *My memories are many and wonderful over the past 38 years of friendship with Elinor. I was a Research Scientist and she was my mentor and supervisor at U of I, Department of Cariology for 4 years in the 1980's, before I continued my education and professional goals. Our friendship endured, sharing movies, dinners out at her favorite restaurants, concerts and stage plays, shopping and lengthy visits filled with laughter. I am ever grateful for her friendship and will miss her dearly. Paula Sanders*

Paula Sanders - October 04, 2023 at 03:45 PM