



Lilian Michelsen

November 22, 1923 - March 21, 2023

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After a full, extraordinary, and happy 99-year life, Lilian Michelsen died peacefully on March 21, 2023, just months shy of her 100th birthday in her assisted living apartment at Independence Village of East Fishers (formerly the Enclave at Saxony).

Born on November 22, 1923 in the Elephant and Castle neighborhood of London, UK, Lilian Reading excelled in school and was awarded a coveted high school scholarship to the Aylwin School for Girls. Unfortunately her education was cut short by WWII and the blitz bombing of London. Like many British children of that era, she and her younger sister and brother were evacuated to the countryside to live with strangers until it was safe to return home. She worked as a payroll clerk at Tilling's and was a popular and social young adult. At one of the weekly dances at Covent Garden, which she and her girlfriends regularly attended hoping to meet a handsome American GI, Lilian did just that-she met Army Tech Sargent William (Bill) Michelsen, her husband of more than 60 years. After a year of letter writing, Lilian bravely boarded a plane to Chicago (via Greenland), leaving her family to come to the USA as a British War Bride, to marry Bill in Chicago, Illinois on July 20, 1946. They lived in Chicago (with Bill's mother and his twin sister), then Berwyn, IL, then Schaumburg, IL, and then Fishers, IN. They had three children, Diane, Ron, and Janice who they loved and nurtured all their lives. When Bill died in

2006, Lilian exhibited her strength and independence by living alone in their two-story home for 12 more years, eventually moving to an independent living apartment at age 94. She then moved to assisted living at 96 when she began experiencing some cognitive decline and needed more care. She remained physically quite healthy to the end, except for a twice broken hip and a bout with pneumonia. Lilian escaped ever contracting COVID. Her apartment was a mile (2 minutes) from Jan's house, which was a blessing for both for the next five years as it facilitated twice daily visits.

Despite her advanced age and memory loss, Lilian never lost her sense of humor, her smile, her intelligence, her kindness, and her care and consideration for others. Although her life recently became "smaller" in due to dementia and lack of mobility, she still loved life, her children, and people. Until her last few days, she was a regular participant at happy hours, craft activities, and three visits to the dining room each day.

Lilian is survived by her children, Diane (Al) Rocush of Gilbert, AZ; Ron (Dawn) Michelsen of Denton, TX; and Jan Michelsen of Fishers, IN. She also leaves grandchildren, Melanie (Mark Bohn) of Salem, WI, Jeff Rocush of Gilbert, AZ, Erica (Chad Deville) Rocush of Mesa, AZ, and Peter (Rachel) Michelsen of West Lake, TX, along with three great-grandchildren, Will, Jack and Rad Michelsen; her brother, Ron Reading; her sister, Joyce Hill, both still in England, and many nieces and nephews in England. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Michelsen; granddaughter, Joy Michelsen; and her father, Leonard; and her mum, Florence (who herself lived to be 101!)

Visitation will be Friday, March 24, 2023 from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Lilian's extraordinary life at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road, Fishers. For those unable to attend, the service on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. will be livestreamed and available by clicking on the following link: <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/3697196503>

Another celebration of life will be held at Independence Village of East Fishers, 12950 Talblick Street, Fishers, on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

for residents, staff, and any friends who cannot attend Friday visitation but who wish to celebrate Lilian.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to either GRRACE (Golden Retriever Rescue and Community Education) <https://grace.org>, P.O. Box 513, Plainfield, IN 46168 or the Humane Society of Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038, www.hamiltonhumane.co, in memory of her lifelong love of her dogs and grand dogs.

Cemetery Details

Independence Village of East Fishers

12950 Talblick Street
Fishers, IN 46037

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Celebration of Life

MAR 31. 2:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Celebration of Life

APR 1. 3:00 PM (ET)

Independence Village of East Fishers
12950 Talblich Street
Fishers, IN 46037

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - April 05, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lilian Michelsen.



March 31, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ An amazing lady with a generational story of her time in England and of meeting her future husband during such a traumatic time for the World but from it comes the pursuit and fruits of life, perseverance and longevity. A life lived well and long, finally at place and time of peace.

Mark Bohn - March 29, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ We are incredibly sorry for the loss of such an extraordinary woman. We extend our deepest sympathies on behalf of the Humane Society for Hamilton County. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lilian's family during this difficult time.

Humane Society for Hamilton County - March 24, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Lilian Michelsen.*



March 23, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *"Sending You an Angel" Statue Candle Holder with LED Candle to Express Sympathy was purchased for the family of Lilian Michelsen.*



March 22, 2023 at 09:56 PM