



Erika S. Ragsdale

February 16, 1929 - October 4, 2019

Erika S. Rossmann Ragsdale, 90, passed away Friday evening, October 4, 2019. Her life was marked by rich experience, courage, integrity, and most of all, a deep love for her family and friends. She grew up in Bamberg, Germany, in the aftermath of World War I and the Great Depression, and spent her early youth surrounded by the tumultuous events of World War II. She rarely shared her memories of those times, but the days of her life were shaped by lessons learned in those days.

Erika never turned down a challenge. She left Germany as a war bride with a young daughter in tow and made a life for herself and her family in the Tampa Bay area. She traveled the world as a military wife, once even sailing across the Pacific Ocean with three small children to a duty station in China. Later in life she struck out on her own, determined to raise her then five children to the best of her ability, working several jobs and rising through the ranks at Harris Corporation.

Erika was best known for her unending love and support of all who were close to her, and for being an independent, feisty, kind, and gentle soul. She always put others first, listened with her heart, and tried her best to help her children and grandchildren. She shared their joys and sorrows, quietly, in her own way.

Erika is survived by her children: Nancy (Allen), Linda, Danja, Jack (Judy) and Melody (Don); grandchildren, Tracie, Tony, Joshua, Karma, Stephanie, Chelsea, and Christopher; six great-grandchildren; a niece and nephew; and many wonderful friends. She is predeceased by her parents, Franz and Maria, her brother, Hans and sister, Theresia. A private service will be held Monday, October 21. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Salvation Army, hospice, or organizations serving children in need. To share a memory of Erika or send a condolence to the family visit www.sunsetmemory.com.

Comments



“ I remember Aunt Erika made me feel welcome and comfortable in her home on Patrick Air Force base when, as a young girl, I would come over to visit my cousins. During one visit, I was feeling a little sad. She went to her linen closet and gave me a cute little dainty handkerchief to cheer me up. I kept it for several years. I've thought about her through the years, especially when I'm in Lutz visiting my parents, who live where Grandmother used to live. The Ragsdales and Stephens had some fun family times at the lake! Here's to you, Aunt Erika. You were blessed with a loving family during your time here on Earth, and now you live on in them, in their hearts and their memories. Your niece, Terry Stephens Russell (John)

Terry Russell - October 21 at 03:20 PM



“ Sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. Sending prayers to the family.

Sheri Stephens Furman

sheri furman - October 21 at 03:01 PM



“ I remember Aunt Erika and how she made me feel welcome and comfortable in her home on Patrick Air Force Base when, as a young girl, I would come to visit my cousins. During one visit I was feeling a little sad and she went to her linen closet and gave me a cute little dainty handkerchief to cheer me up. I kept it for several years. I've thought about her several times through the years, especially when I visit my parents, who live where Grandmother used to live. There were lots of fun family times at the lake! So here's to you Aunt Erika. You were blessed with a loving family during your time here on Earth, and now you live on in them. Your niece, Terry Stephens Russell (John)

Terry Russell - October 21 at 01:57 PM



“ I have lots of memories of Erika from the day my brother, her husband Jack Ragsdale sent her and her young daughter to America from Germany. Sharing our home, fun times, playing with her daughter Nancy, and teaching her to speak English. And as time passed watching our children play and grow, until my brother died in 1968. Thinking of the family in their time of loss of their mother.

Gena Stephens

Gena Stephens - October 21 at 10:50 AM



“ I remember Aunt Erika and the times I stayed with her and my cousins when she lived on base Eau Gallie. She was always happy to see me and made me feel welcome and comfortable in her home. I've thought of her often through the years, especially during visits to my parents' home, which is where Grandmother used to live. We had good times on the lake! So here's to you, Aunt Erika. You were blessed in your life here on Earth with a loving family and you live on in each and every one of them. Your niece, Terry Stephens Russell

Terry Russell - October 21 at 12:46 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Erika S. Ragsdale.



October 21 at 07:41 AM



“ I send my deepest sympathy to Aunt Erika's family. I have known her to be a woman of quiet strength and wisdom. I will be making a donation in her name to the Christmas Toy Shop in St. Petersburg to purchase toys for needy children this December.

James Ragsdale

james ragsdale - October 20 at 07:41 PM



“ Thank you, Jim. That is very generous of you!
Melody

Melody - October 23 at 11:31 AM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Melody Stahl - October 10 at 04:26 PM



“ Ms.Erika was a very special person to me. She became a blessing in my life. Just sitting with her and talk and believe me we could talk about everything, I will miss that so much. She was always so thankful for everything I done for her. For me it was nothing, but for her it meant so much more. I never forget when I brought her the first balloon. Her reaction was priceless. I never seen anyone so happy about a balloon. That's how it started. From that day forward I always bought her balloons. The memories of our time together will be forever with me. R.I.P. Ms.Erika Sending XOXO to heaven. Andrea

Andrea Roofe - October 10 at 12:47 PM



“ "Until we meet again" Ms.Erika Those special memories you will always bring a smile , if only I could have you back for just a little while. Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do. You always meant so very much and always will do too. The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain but you're forever in my heart until we meet again. I will miss you dearly. Love Andrea

Andrea Roofe - October 10 at 12:35 PM



“ Andrea Roofe lit a candle in memory of Erika S. Ragsdale



Andrea Roofe - October 10 at 12:29 PM



“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



Stephanie S - October 09 at 07:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Melody Stahl - October 09 at 06:50 PM



“ Melody Stahl lit a candle in memory of Erika S. Ragsdale



Melody Stahl - October 09 at 02:24 PM



“ Melody Stahl is following this tribute.

Melody Stahl - October 08 at 08:28 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Melody Stahl - October 08 at 08:24 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Mom



linda Schlosser - October 08 at 12:57 PM