



Dorothy B. Spence

June 25, 1931 - September 17, 2016

Dorothy “Dottie” Byrn Spence passed away peacefully September 17, 2016 at the age of 85. She was born June 25, 1931 in Gallatin, Tennessee to Mary (Scott) and Philip Maynard Byrn. In 1950 she married George Spence. Together they raised three daughters and built a life at 1904 Main Street full of family, friends, neighbors and travel.

Dottie was happy to call Alton home for over 50 years, all the while keeping her gracious southern charm. Dottie’s warmth allowed her to be a mother to many, including her cherished nieces Angela Link and Beverly Solomon.

Dottie was first and foremost a mother of three, unconditionally loving her daughters Lisa Spence Huber, Sharon Spence and Dixie Spence Taylor. She was “Mimi” to her grandchildren – John and Michael Huber; Michael’s fiancé Margaret Rogers; Molly, William and Paul Salomon; Paul’s wife Teresa Feathers; and Abby and Mary Caroline Taylor. Her beloved great granddaughter Nora Feathers held a special place in her heart.

Dottie filled her life with friends and community – serving on the Madison County Board, selling real estate, and devoting countless hours to P.E.O., the Community Service League and the Easter Seals Society.

Chautauqua was a special place for her, where she and her husband George owned a cottage. Every summer she was eager to be among friends and nature.

Dottie played a great game of bridge, no matter the hand she was dealt, and loved the ladies she played with over the years.

Dottie always read the obituaries herself but she didn't want a long one. Unfortunately for Dottie, her life was too full and her love too great to warrant any less.

Dottie's motto was a simple one - "Life is Good." She made life better for all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Dottie was preceded in death by her husband, her sisters Brodie Shaw and Marion Tobias, and her brother James Byrn.

Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, September 22, 2016. Reverend Charles Schwaab will officiate. Burial will be at Upper Alton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to P.E.O. Chapter IL, Program for Continuing Education. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Upper Alton Cemetery

Oakwood Avenue
Alton, IL 62002

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral

SEP 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
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Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy B. Spence*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dorothy B. Spence*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I am so sorry to learn of Dottie's death. She was truly a special lady and I will so miss her joyous smile and warm personality. My warmest thoughts and heartfelt sympathy are with all of her family.*

*Fondly,
Linda Meisel*

Linda Meisel - September 26, 2016 at 01:53 PM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.*



September 21, 2016 at 09:27 PM

EM

“ Your Mama took us under her fabulous wing and introduced us all around Chautauqua paving a wide path for our entry. Tim and I are forever grateful. I remember you Mama setting up a lovely luncheon for guests returning to our home after my father's funeral -always kind and giving. I remember her sassiness and dry wit on many porch sittings and Methville dinners (which could have been a bit dry without her sparkle). I am forever grateful for her later in life close friendship with my Mama. They have s special bound in their love of life and all around "ladyness". I am thankful that she introduced me to the Sisterhood of her daughters and their kin where I plan to spend much porch time regaling Dottie and Grace. Dottie is so missed that it is hard to believe she is now watching over instead of right int the middle of the party.

Ellen Mullarkey - September 21, 2016 at 04:27 PM

MS

“ My deepest sympathy - Ann Savary purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



My deepest sympathy - Ann Savary - September 21, 2016 at 04:11 PM

AS

“ Ms. Dorothy was to me the epitome of a southern belle. I remember her home always being open to me either in Alton or Chattagua (sp?), she was a generous and skillful hostess. I marveled at her masterful way of "subtle expression." It was hard to tell if she liked you or was displeased, so I always tried to impress her by being witty or charming, it felt like that's what she wanted from a guest, a display of ones redeeming qualities, it made for a much better visit. I think she realized that I knew this about her, at least I hope so... she brought out the best in me when I was in her company. The mold is broken, I'm thankful for having met and spent time with this charming, graceful lady. Rest in peace.

All of my love from Los Angeles

Ann Savary

Ann Savary - September 21, 2016 at 03:48 PM

SH

“ I remember your mom so vividly from the neighborhood happy hours with our family and the Holmes family. Your mom had that wonderful Southern charm and was always so much fun. And we "kid" ran around and had a great time. She was the "hostess with the mostess" and I know you are missing her. My mom is in Florida living right near Julie and we feel blessed.

Sally Hall Hanson - September 21, 2016 at 10:06 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 21, 2016 at 09:14 AM

PF

“ Pam Ross Foster sent a virtual gift in memory of Dorothy B. Spence



Pam Ross Foster - September 20, 2016 at 11:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 20, 2016 at 07:50 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 20, 2016 at 04:38 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 20, 2016 at 04:03 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.* ”



September 20, 2016 at 03:42 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to you and your family for your loss. May the sorrow that you are feeling in your heart lighten by the love that surrounds you.* ”



Elizabeth Berrios - September 20, 2016 at 03:20 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Dixie, Lisa and Sharon. I send you love, light, memory and breath.* ”

michael shepperd - September 20, 2016 at 01:56 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.* ”



September 20, 2016 at 01:33 PM

AE

“ our deepest sympathy to the daughters of Dottie. I knew your Mother through Real Estate. She was always a favorite of mine. Such a classy lady!

Phil and Ann Ellis

ann and Phil Ellis - September 20, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 20, 2016 at 09:45 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 20, 2016 at 07:58 AM

BS

“ Dottie Spence was like a fairy godmother to me when I was little. She and George would have me spend weekends at their house in Woodbine. I don't remember details of our early time together but the assurance of my bond with Dottie was early and deep . I remember being in Bellbuckle at Mrs Rubys house. Dottie's wedding picture was hanging in the hall. I stared at the little flower girls with bewilderment Surely I should be in the picture. Dottie understood my puzzlement and explained that she married shortly before I was born. That's why I was not there!

Dottie gave me many wonderful gifts over the years. The best gift was my cousins, her daughters who are my inner circle and my fav group text. She provided many opportunities for my sister and me to be together with her girls building the bonds that make life bearable on a bad day and joyous on a good day together.

I treasure our Towne Motel water ballet and Glasgow adventures, Chatauqua summers, Lockhaven Easters, Ducah-Dos, and drives around Gallatin and Alton with Dottie. I know I will pick up the phone to call her many times before I remember that we are the matriarchs now. I hope I can live up to the example set for me.

Beverly Solomon - September 19, 2016 at 10:04 PM

BD

“ I remember Dottie driving my mom and Carolyn Schlansker in her red convertible in the Children's Day Parade. Dottie was so glamorous and such a dear, kind person. Chautauqua has lost another treasured "Grand Dame". Thoughts and prayers for you all.

Betsy Dugan

Betsy Dugan - September 19, 2016 at 07:33 PM

TD

“ *Dottie was the best - plain and simple. She and George were examples of the finest qualities of character and human kindness. I am fortunate to have known them and proud to have been their friend.*

Tom Dehner

Tom Dehner - September 19, 2016 at 05:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.*



September 19, 2016 at 01:01 PM

IM

“ *IEMCSO Family-Lynn McKinney purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.*



IEMCSO Family-Lynn McKinney - September 19, 2016 at 11:09 AM

TM

“ Lisa, Sharon, Dixie, Angela and Beverly:
My sincere condolences to all 5 of you and the rest of your extended families. Hearing of Dottie’s passing has brought back a flood of memories this past weekend. The playhouse in Nashville; Bambi and Zombie; the granny gowns as Christmas gifts one year; the beautiful, formal dresses she would sew and cover her shoes in the same fabric; The Towne Motel in Glasgow with The Bridal Suite and pool; antiques; painted birdhouses; her love of convertibles; that fabulous home on Main; and of course Chautauqua. I still make her pork barbecue often. These memories and thousands more will comfort you in the days ahead.

She was a very creative, talented and generous woman. She lived a very full, adventurous life and was a very lucky lady to be loved so completely by so many. May you all find comfort in each other over the coming days. I will be thinking of you all.

Sincerely,
Theresa McIlroy

Theresa McIlroy - September 19, 2016 at 10:44 AM

CA

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of your dear loved one. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this time. May the love and support of friends and family, as well as the wonderful memories you've shared over the years, bring you much comfort.

Cara (Paulda) & Marty Armstead - September 19, 2016 at 10:42 AM

BG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May your many loving, fun memories bring you comfort, strength, & peace now. In time they will give you joy & smiles. My prayers to you Sharon & your family. Barb. Gomer

Barb. Gomer - September 19, 2016 at 09:51 AM

BD

“ When I was initiated into PEO back in 1989, I was lent Dottie's pin until my own was received. I was proud to share it with such a lovely lady.

Bobbie Damon

Bobbie Damon - September 19, 2016 at 09:02 AM

NK

“ I know how much you all will miss Dottie. Your memories are great and her love for Sharon, Lisa and Dixie is beyond compare. Beverly and Angela were blessed to share in that love.

Nannette Kaiser - September 19, 2016 at 08:53 AM

JB

“ Lisa, so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. My prayers for you and your family.

Joy L Brake - September 19, 2016 at 06:21 AM



“ Fruits and Blooms Basket was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.



September 18, 2016 at 08:03 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dorothy B. Spence.* ”



September 18, 2016 at 02:39 PM