



Elizabeth Tudor Bourland

February 23, 1936 - August 21, 2018

Dateline: Godfrey

Elizabeth Tudor Bourland, 82, died Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Born February 23, 1936 in Brownstown, IL. Elizabeth was a mother, librarian, scholar, voracious reader, author and friend. She was extremely curious and loved research. She devoted her life to her children, friends and the pursuit of learning for all people. Beth, as she was known by many was a loyal and giving person. Her nature was sweet, unassuming, with a quiet determination. Beth had the ability to build long lasting friendships, something that she considered a rare and special gift. Her friends were so special to her.

Beth was raised by two loving parents, Louis and Emma (Harmon) Tudor. She has a very large extended family and she spent much of her years with all of them not too far. Especially important in Beth's life was her cousin Judy Willenborg, whom she considered her sister. The most fun moments of Beth's life were many times spent "laughing and discussing" with Judy.

She raised four children with character, strength, laughter and a lot of worry. She traveled extensively across the globe in her desire to learn and experience the world. Beth instilled the love of travel in her children and she created a home where adventure and curiosity flourished.

Beth is survived by her four children that loved and admired her deeply; John Bourland (Pam) of Jackson, MO, Gabrielle Taul (Ed) of Clayton, MO,

Marianne Bourland of Wood River, and Michael Bourland of Godfrey. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Jeremy Bourland (Haley), Jaimee Henderson (Travis), Jordan Bourland, Alexandra Taul, and Jackson Taul, and four great grandchildren, Jenna and Paige Henderson, Mason Bourland, and Lydia Bourland. Beth also helped to form and raise a special person she considered a daughter, Carol Cira.

Beth worked her entire career for the Alton School District and retired after 40 years of service. She attended St. Louis University and Southern Illinois University achieving a Bachelor of Science, Masters and Specialist Degrees. She was an active member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

A memorial visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, August 24, 2018 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Memorials may be made in memory of Elizabeth to a local public library or a library of choice or Behavioral Health Alternative at 337 East Ferguson Avenue, Wood River, IL 62095. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2409 State Street

Alton, IL 62002

(618) 466-5544

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

Tribute Wall



“ Elizabeth Tudor Bourland

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Elizabeth Tudor Bourland

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ Gabe, Ed and Family,

I am so sorry that I just saw this and I missed the visitation for your Mother! I remember her being such a nice and kind person when we would breeze in and out of her house back in the day. I lost my Mom last year and I know how hard it is. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Take Care! Love, Roy and Sara Geisen

Sara Geisen - September 04, 2018 at 03:37 PM



“ While my grandma and Beth were only first cousins, anyone who had ever been in the room with them would say they were more like sisters. This friendship and love they shared for each other presented itself in a myriad of ways, from weekly phone calls to grandchildren not realizing Beth was not actually "Aunt Beth" at a slightly embarrassingly old age (yes, this was me). Aunt Beth, as she will forever be known to me, was one of the kindest, most intelligent people I have ever met. She was extremely generous and always fun to be around. I will always remember her visits. She will be greatly missed.

Drew Willenborg - August 29, 2018 at 04:30 PM

FA

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Family - August 23, 2018 at 08:11 PM

NT

“ *North Central Sales & Delivery Team purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Elizabeth Tudor Bourland.*



North Central Sales & Delivery Team - August 23, 2018 at 05:34 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Tudor Bourland.*



August 23, 2018 at 04:09 PM

AF

“ *Anne Freeman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Elizabeth Tudor Bourland.*



Anne Freeman - August 22, 2018 at 04:33 PM

SH

“ I loved meeting Beth at Hendel's for lunch and catching up together. I know my mom, Molly, will also miss her tremendously. Mom asked me to bring her photo album of the trip the two of them took to Australia, so we can enjoy the happy memories of the time they spent sightseeing together.

Sally Hanson - August 22, 2018 at 01:49 PM

CW

I have known Beth for than 40 years and she was always a source of inspiration, wise counsel, and friendship. I was seated next to Beth at Phil Cira's wedding and we had a great conversation. My prayers are with her and her family at this time. I hope the following words help you in your time of grief.

*A Parable of Immortality
By Henry Van Dyke*

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sun and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There she goes."

Gone where? Gone from my sight—that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the places of destination.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There she goes" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

Cathy White - August 23, 2018 at 11:55 AM



Beth never ceased to amaze me. She was one of the most intelligent women I've ever known, educated, well-read, and well-traveled. I loved listening to her stories about her travels and looking at her photos and the treasures she'd carefully selected to bring back home. I wonder how many others she influenced with her love of travel. She was such an interesting person, with a quiet sense of humor, and I can still hear her laugh and see her smile. Nothing made her happier than when she talked about her children and grandchildren. She was so proud of them! They truly are her living legacy and a testament to one of her greatest achievements, being the matriarch of their family. One thing I'll always remember and admire about her is what an incredible role model she was as a strong, independent, and successful woman. I'll always have warm memories of the times I shared with her and her family at holidays and throughout the years. I am blessed to have known Beth. She was one of a kind, and she will be missed.

Kerry Maceranka - August 25, 2018 at 08:38 AM