



## Howard and Harriet Eichen

March 1, 1929 - February 28, 2026

Dateline: Alton

Harriet Louise, “Harry Lou”, Eichen (Middleton), age 96, was welcomed into the loving embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ, singing the “Hallelujah” chorus, February 28, 2026. She was born March 11, 1929, in Alton, Illinois, the daughter of Dr. Harry and Florence Middleton. Harry Lou was the treasured little sister of Dr. William Middleton, Martha Lauritzen (Middleton), and Eleanor Ann Middleton.

Harry Lou was the dear and loving wife of Howard Eichen, to whom she was married for 70 years. They first met in Sunday school at Main Street Methodist Church and remained friends through graduation from Alton High School, where they were in the same senior class. They began dating during college and eventually married. Their marriage centered on their Christian faith, love, commitment to one another, and devotion to their ever-growing family.

Together they had five children: Lisa Norooz; Gretel (John) Maggos; Bob (Shelley) Eichen; Britta (Mark) Haggard; and David (Patty) Eichen.

Grandchildren include: Daniel, Sarah (Justin) Mathenia, Joseph, Noah, and Samuel Norooz; Rachel (Jay) St. John and Benjamin Maggos; Alex, David (Daisy), and Andrew Eichen, Leslie (Reggie) Conlee, Lindsey (Randy) Cress, and Lauren (Thomas) Gage; Hannon (Heather), Asher (Jess Nemic), and Sage Haggard; Isaiah (Lauren) and Elias Eichen. Great-grandchildren include Liam Norooz; Harper, Darcy, Eva, Calvin, and Amos Mathenia; Henry, Rosie, and Milo St. John; Lela and Sydney Eichen; Corbin, Boden, and Zoe Leezy;

Amalie Michelin; Makenzie, Wyatt and William Conlee; Kylie Angel; Harper Gage; Levi, Louis, and Chloe Haggard; and Matthew Eichen.

Harry Lou prayed for each family member by name in her nightly prayers. She was their No.1 fan in life.

Harry Lou attended William Woods College for Women and Millikin University where she studied voice and fashion design and served as the President of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority chapter. She recorded a number of albums while attending William Woods. In the early years of marriage, while Howard completed school, Harry Lou worked in the bookkeeping department of a bank. When their first child arrived, she devoted herself fully to her family, becoming a dedicated homemaker and supportive wife.

Harry Lou was frequently seen shuffling kids around town in her blue- and - white Volkswagen bus to and from Summers-Port, athletic practices, lessons, scout meetings, sporting events, and a variety of after-school activities.

Howard was heavily involved in the Missouri Athletic Club (M.A.C.), New Horizon Band and much more. Harry Lou never missed an Apollo performance, dance, dinner, or special event.

Harry Lou loved big family holidays, house plants, gardening, big dogs, playing classical music at the highest decibel, playing the harmonica, photography, eating cheeseballs and drinking mini-Cokes while watching films, non-fiction books, poetry, writing riddles, sewing, exercising, her scalding hot morning cup of coffee, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, Charlie Brown, catfish on rye with a raw white onion at O'Jan's, summers on Torch Lake Michigan, shopping for shoes, singing with exuberance with the windows wide open, big family vacations, big vacations without the family, Sanibel seashells, spotting white pelicans soaring over the Mississippi, and big hugs.

Harry Lou will be greatly missed by all who knew her, but we know we will one day be reunited in Heaven. She will be remembered as incredibly strong, bright, principled, kindhearted, humble, gentle, curious, and very loving. Harry Lou was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings; her husband; her son,

Bobby; and her grandsons Ben Maggos and Andrew Eichen

A private family celebration of life will be held later in March.

Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

Dateline: Alton

Howard Henry Eichen, age 93, went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, January 13, 2022. He was born August 27, 1928, in Wood River, Illinois, the only child of Henry A. and Eva Mae Eichen. He was the "apple of their eyes."

Howard was the generous and loving husband of Harry Lou Eichen, to whom he was married for 70 years. They first met in Sunday school at Main Street Methodist Church and remained friends through graduation from Alton High School, where they were in the same senior class. They began dating during college and eventually married. Their marriage centered on their Christian faith, love, commitment to one another, and devotion to their ever-growing family.

Together they had five children: Lisa Norooz, Gretel (John) Maggos, Bob (Shelley) Eichen, Britta (Mark) Haggard and David (Patty) Eichen.

Grandchildren include: Daniel, Sarah (Justin) Mathenia, Joseph, Noah, and Samuel Norooz; Rachel (Jay) St. John and Benjamin Maggos; Alex, David (Daisy), and Andrew Eichen, Leslie (Reggie) Conlee, Lindsey (Randy) Cress, and Lauren (Thomas) Gage; Hannon (Heather), Asher (Jess Nemic), and Sage Haggard; Isaiah (Lauren) and Elias Eichen.

Great-grandchildren include Liam Norooz; Harper, Darcy, Eva, Calvin, and Amos Mathenia; Henry, Rosie, and Milo St. John; Lela and Sydney Eichen; Corbin, Boden, and Zoe Leezy; Amalie Michelin; Makenzie, Wyatt and William Conlee; Kylie Angel; Harper Gage; Levi, Louis, and Chloe Haggard; and Matthew Eichen.

As an only child, Howard was thrilled to have a large family of his own.

After graduating from high school, Howard enlisted in the Marine Corps. Following his military service, he graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.S. in Business Administration and earned an M.B.A., with honors, from Washington University in St. Louis . He was the first in his family to attend college, fulfilling the dreams of his mother and father.

Howard worked in the commercial elevator industry as a salesman for General Elevator, Dover Elevator and Long Elevator Company and finally retired in his mid-80s. He served as president of the board of Associated General Contractors and as president of Producers' Council where he was awarded the Silver Bell and Bowl for leading the best chapter in the nation. Howard was a member of the Missouri Athletic Club (M.A.C.), where he served on the Board of Governors as secretary. He enjoyed competing in handball, racquetball, squash, volleyball, tennis tournaments and singing and serving as president of the Apollo Men's Choir.

Howard began playing the saxophone at age 10. He played throughout his life, recording a number of albums which he sang "scat" and played saxophone. Bands included the Buzz Federly Orchestra, Jim Miget Orchestra, The Moods, The Bald and The Beautiful Band, and his church praise band. He ended his musical career at age 90 with the New Horizon Band in Godfrey.

Howard loved big family BBQs and picnics, his millions of friends, gardening and raising giant pumpkins, working out at Nautilus, raising animals, being the "Big Chief" for the YMCA Indian Guides, running the bullpen at swim meets, serving as assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 129, packing his five children in a VW bus or the wood-paneled station wagon and driving to Texas, Florida, Smokey Mts, and Michigan for summer vacations, fishing at Peterson's, playing solitaire, raw oysters on the half shell, and reading autobiographies.

Howard has been greatly missed these past 4 years by all who knew him, but we are comforted knowing we will be reunited in Heaven. He is remembered as working incredibly hard for his family, being generous to a fault, kind,

thoughtful, fun loving, gregarious, and never having known a stranger. Howard was preceded in death by his parents and grandsons, Ben Maggos and Andrew Eichen.

A private family celebration of life will be held later in March.

Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ I only knew Harry Lou briefly, but I loved her dearly. Her smiles were contagious and her inner happiness and outlook on life was an inspiration. She had the absolute sweetest and kindest soul and I am better for knowing her.

Barbara Houck - March 20 at 10:59 PM

DJ

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Eichen family. Seems like I spent a years worth time with you all growing up. Bob and I were brothers in many ways and so I grieve for Harry Lou like a second mom. I remember shooting Bob in the finger with an arrow. The fact that he stuck his hand right in the sandbox where I was already aiming the arrow. Some sort of game we were playing. He ran to HL crying and I was right behind him. She didn't believe either one of us, imagine that! We were both summarily punished, not sure how. Much love to you all, always. Daniel Johnson

Daniel Johnson - March 19 at 09:43 PM

TW

“ Our condolences go out to the entire Eichen family. We are sad for your loss and many prayers to you.  
Terry & Linda Wooten



Terry Wooten - March 07 at 03:57 PM

ME

“ Sending thoughts and prayers for your whole family. 🙏💕

Mary Eckhouse - March 06 at 12:13 PM

CI

“ We were blessed to call her neighbor when I was growing up for many years. She had a contagious laugh I can still hear. Prayers and condolences to the entire family.

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**cynthia (Kaus) Igo** - March 05 at 06:16 PM