



Mabel Charlene Gill

July 3, 1924 - December 13, 2013

Dateline: Godfrey

Mabel Charlene Meisenheimer Gill, 89, died at 5:30 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2013 at her home in Godfrey. She was born July 3, 1924 in Alton, the daughter of the late Charles and Mable Dehne Meisenheimer. She was educated in the public schools in Brighton, Illinois, and attended Shurtleff College, Washington University in St. Louis, Southern Illinois University and Tarkio College. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a concentration in Management, and is listed in Who's Who of the Midwest and Who's Who of American Women. Mabel's passion for history led her to be a co-founder of the Alton Museum of History and Art, Inc. and she was an instrumental part of the museum's successes. She devoted much of her time and resources to the museum, volunteering tirelessly for 42 years, and eventually became President Emeritus. She never tired of sharing Alton's history with others. Her dedication to the museum and love of history were demonstrated daily. She was founder of the Arsenal '76 Chapter of Federally Employed Women, President of St. Louis Zonta Club, President of the American Society of Photogrammetry, Board Member of National Women's Conference Center since 1979, founder of the Missouri Women's Network in 1982, Co-Chair of the Equal Rights Amendment Caucus, and Chair of the Shake Hands with History Committee. She was a photogrammetrist and supervisory cartographer from 1948 until 1980. She started her career at Aeronautical Chart Plant at 12th and Delmar in St. Louis as a Photogrammetric Aide and

later at Aeronautical Chart and Information Center. She was the first woman supervisor in her Department, and spent her later years in the Program, Plans & Operations of the Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center, ending her career there as a Program Manager in 1980. She was the first Federal Woman's Program Manager at that Agency. For 5 years, she was the newsletter editor of the Photogrammetric Engineering Journal of the American Society of Photogrammetry, and after retirement, authored several books for the Alton Museum. She was also President of the Alton Women's Council, Alton Area Historical Society, helped form two International Toastmaster's Clubs in St. Louis and was one of the first women to be an Area Governor of Toastmasters. She also served as the Grand Marshal of the Alton Memorial Day Parade, the oldest Memorial Day parade in the United States. Mabel's dedicated volunteer service garnered her many awards, including the YWCA's Woman of Distinction Award, 100 Women of Substance, the Studs Terkel Humanities Award and the National Society of the DAR's Historic Preservation Medal, among others. Family was of the utmost importance to her. She married Fred L. Gill on February 3, 1946 at the Brighton St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church. Her husband preceded her in death in 1988. Surviving are two sons, Charles Gill of Newton, IA, and Frederic "Rick" Gill (Laura) of Alton. Also surviving and lovingly raised by her are Vicki Winchester of Alton, Bette Paul (Steven) of Fosterburg, Douglas Miller (Paula) of Dorsey, Debra Herrera (Frank) of Gilbert, AZ, Bruce Miller (Vickie) of Roswell, GA, and Becki Gill Rhyne (Randy) of Alton as well as numerous other nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Along with her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Ann Gill, a granddaughter, Kathie Gill Smith, and her twin sisters who died at birth, Melba and Viola. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Funeral services will be private. Burial will be at Fosterburg Cemetery. A public celebration of Mabel's life will be held at the Alton Museum at a later date. Mabel's wish was that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the Alton Museum of History and Art, 2809 College

Ave., Alton, IL 62002.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Mabel Charlene Gill*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Mabel Charlene Gill*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Grandma you were always so caring and nice to everyone, I will miss you and remember you always and all the things we did together when i was a child .i will never forget you may you rest in peace .*

Mike Gill - December 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *As a young child I remember Mabel and her husband Fred so well. They were friends of my parents Mary (Sug) and Francis Landre of Alton. My prayers are with the Gill family at this time and may God let her rest in peace.*

George F Landre - December 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Charlene Johnson -- What a beautiful poem. Please let me know who the author is. My email is glandre41@gmail.com. Thank You*

George F Landre - December 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *Mabel Charlene Gill*

Tracey Jones Schneider - December 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ *My prayers to the family.*

Allen Austin - December 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *While the Museum was still located on Broadway, I worked with Charlene along with Helen Whalen. Helped with tours, logging donations, events, exhibits and taught art to children. It was a pleasure and never a dull moment. Yes, she was a talented and positive lady.*

Dee Weaver - December 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *As a young Air Force Cartographic Officer, I fondly remember Charlene as a lovely and gracious lady and coworker, at ACIC from 1967-69 and again at DMAAC from 1973-77. She was a true professional and friend. My very best regards and sympathy to her family.*

Stephen Pedone, Lt Col, USAF, Ret. - December 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *We are so sorry to hear about your loss, your mom was a special person.*

Bob and Ann Gowin - December 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss! Mabel had a life well lived.*

Frances Ash - December 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *a pioneer for women and minorities. Shedid so much fot her community' She will be trully missed.*

don boswell - December 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *an amazing kind woman and loving aunt. we love you and miss you.*

Len and Lin Jones - December 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *I loved grandmama and her amazing stories. She will be missed.*

Karen Coleman - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy. She was trully an amazing woman.*

Bob and Belinda Sutterer - December 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *To a loving grandmother who had a big heart and the love for history and art may your journey to a better place be filled with love ,ill miss you Grandmother .*

Mike Gill - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ *Aunt Mabel will be dearly missed by all our family. She was a special person.* ”

Celeste Vincelett - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Listen To The Wind

*Time is a river that flows endlessly
And a life is a whisper, a kiss in a dream
Shadows dance behind the firelight
And all the spirits of the night remind us:
We are not alone
Tomorrow: a sun soon rising
And yesterday is there beside us
And it's never far away
If you listen to the wind you can hear me again
Even when I'm gone you can still hear the song
High up in the trees as it moves through the leaves
Listen to the wind, there's no end to my...
Love is forever a circle unbroken
The seasons keep changing; it always remains
Spring will melt the snows of winter
And the summer gives us days of light
So long till autumn makes them fade
Remember the sound of laughter
We ran together through the meadows
Still we thought our hearts could break
If you listen to the wind, you can hear me again
Even when I'm gone you can still hear the song
High up in the trees as it moves through the leaves
Listen to the wind and I'll send you my love
Listen to the wind where the sky meets the land
I'm not really gone I've been here all along
High up in the trees in the sound of the leaves
Listen to the wind there's no end to my...
Time is a river that flows to the sea
And a life is a whisper, a kiss in a dream.*

Charlene Johnson - December 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM