



Shirley Ann Emons

June 14, 1929 - February 21, 2025

Shirley Ann Emons, 95, died on Friday, February 21, 2025 at Jerseyville Manor Nursing Home with family and friends by her side.

Shirley Ann Zito Emons, daughter of the late Mabel and James Zito, was born June 14, 1929 in Kansas City, MO. She graduated from Paseo High School and Huff Business College in Kansas City before moving with her parents to Alton in 1948. She married Joe Emons August 12, 1950 at First Presbyterian Church, Alton.

They were blessed with 3 children, Paula Emons-Fuessle (Bob) of Washington IL, Gayle Joehl (Steve) of Godfrey, and Matt Emons of Palm Springs CA. Her husband Joe and daughter, Paula, preceded her in death. She is survived by five grandsons: Torben Fuessle (Stacy), Nils Fuessle (Emily), Pete Fuessle (Hilary), Andy Joehl (Susan) and Eric Joehl (Shannon), and eight great-grandchildren.

Shirley and Joe Emons started their life together in 1950. They shared their 60th anniversary in August 2010. Joe died the following April. She wrote in her journal “the 60 years we had with one another were full of fun and adventure, family and love.”

Active in the YWCA, Shirley served on committees through the years. She

was a charter member of the Godfrey Women's Club. She served on the board of the Catholic Children's Home and was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

Shirley was Joe's crew chief through 43 years of sailplane racing and cherished the home he built for them. She always said they were a team in everything they did, and she supported him through his many endeavors.

At 83 years old, Shirley founded "Shirley's Kids: Sponsor a Child Program" in 2012. This program supports local children within Riverbend Head Start and Family Services and will be continued by her daughter, Gayle.

In 2018, Shirley received the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award for her years of service in the community.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at Gent Funeral Home 2409 State Street, Alton IL 62002 followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 820 W Homer Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL 62035.

Shirley's desire was to request memorials be made to her favorite community organizations below in lieu of flowers.

Shirley's Kids, Sponsor a Child Program, Riverbend Head Start and Family Services, 550 Landmark Blvd, Alton IL 62002

St. Ambrose Church, 820 West Homer Adams Parkway, Godfrey IL 62035
Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002

Mass

MAR 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church
820 West Homer Adams Pkway
Godfrey, IL 62035

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Shirley - one of the most beautiful souls that has graced this earth. Missing your never-ending smile and laugh. Heaven is so lucky to have you. Rest in Peace with our Lord. Judy Gann

Judy Gann - March 06, 2025 at 07:30 AM

BC

“ Bret Sinak and Alayna Costello purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Shirley Ann Emons.



Bret Sinak and Alayna Costello - March 05, 2025 at 02:33 PM

BC

“ Bret Sinak and Alayna Costello planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Emons.

Bret Sinak and Alayna Costello - March 05, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Emons.



March 03, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley Ann Emons.

March 03, 2025 at 07:55 AM



“ Shirley was a warm and kind soul! She made everyone around her feel at home, always a kind word for everyone. Shirley will be missed and never forgotten! The Godfrey Women's Club will always have special memories of Shirley. She was one women who could get things done!

My prayers for the family!

Pam Whisler

Pam Whisler - February 27, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Shirley



Deac - February 27, 2025 at 09:52 AM

TG

“ I cared for Shirley and she was such a sweet soul. Prayers and my condolences to her family. She will be truly missed. ❤️

Tina Garcia - February 26, 2025 at 09:57 AM

GJ

Thank you for all the wonderful care you gave my mother Tina. She loved you. We will never forget how much you did for her.

Gayle Joehl - February 27, 2025 at 07:49 AM

PD

I worked in Godfrey where Shirley was. Thoughts and prayers to everyone. Thinking of you all. So sorry for your loss. Love, Pam Dillon

Pam Dillon - March 03, 2025 at 03:44 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Emons.



February 25, 2025 at 03:17 PM

CP

“ I was President of Riverbend Head Start in 2012 when Shirley started "Shirley's Kids". She was such an enthusiastic volunteer for that project and many, many other community projects in the Alton/Godfrey area. Always happy and always smiling is how I will remember her!

Chuck Parr

Chuck Parr - February 24, 2025 at 02:54 PM

NT

“ Oh my beautiful Aunt Shirley--my heart is broken and tears are falling like rain. There are no words to express how much you've meant to me throughout my life. So many priceless memories of times spent in Godfrey with you, Uncle Joe, Paula, Gayle and Matt. You were definitely the "hostess with the mostest"! A true gem with a heart of gold and the best laugh of anyone I've ever known. As we all face the difficulty of living our lives without you, just know that spiritually you'll be with us every single day. Thanks for the memories my favorite aunt. I love you to the moon and back! LYG

Nancy Trepanier - February 23, 2025 at 02:00 PM

CG

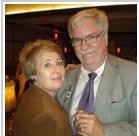
“ A beautiful lady with a beautiful heart!! Heaven has gained a wonderful soul! I will never forget the happy times of you and Joyce S. at Cedar Hurst. You made me smile so much!! RIP Shirley

Christine Garner - February 23, 2025 at 05:21 AM

PZ

“ Very sorry to hear of Shirley's passing! I met her years ago in our garden club. We actually held one of our meetings at your parents' home, where she proudly displayed Joe's turned wood projects. She was always so cheerful and such a lovely lady! She will be missed.

Paula Zugmaier - February 22, 2025 at 03:49 PM



“ Shirley was a delight and a joy!

William Pyatt - February 22, 2025 at 02:54 PM

CN

Shirley was one of the loveliest and lovely women that Dale and I have ever known. Every bone in her body was genuine and her caring and concern for others (especially Shirley's Kids) was so deep. We will miss her, but know that she has been loved by so many and is now with the One who has loved her the most. We are grateful you shared your life with is. Shirley!

Carol & Dale Neudecker - February 24, 2025 at 07:58 PM