



Lillian (Klemm) Salzer

August 14, 1919 - July 1, 2018

A Memorial Graveside Service will be conducted at the Exeter Cemetery in Exeter, Nebraska on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. with Fr. Mark Pfeifer officiating.

Lillian's family will have a Memorial Mass at her home parish St. Pius X Catholic Church, 6905 Blondo St. in Omaha, Nebraska at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 14th, followed by a coffee reception at the church.

In honoring her wish to be cremated there will be no visitation.

Memorials are to be directed to JDRF.org or fontenelleforest.org.

Born August 14th on a pioneer era farmstead in Fillmore County, Nebraska to Henry and Anna (Komarek) Klemm, Lillian was the last of their four surviving children: Stephen, Cecilia, and Edmund. An American epic family, her father was born in a sod house on the nearby prairie to German immigrants, and her mother fled central Europe alone as a young girl, first on foot to the German border, then by train to Hamburg, and sailing on the steamer SS Bremen where she rode in steerage as so many did at the turn of the century, to be welcomed by Lady Liberty in New York Harbor, and inducted through Ellis Island to find a new life in America. Anna and Henry infused persistence in all their children, sowing and nurturing the seeds of lifelong leadership. They

were principal builders of the town of Exeter and St. Stephens Catholic community. The landscapes and harsh realities of farming during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years forged the character that this family exhibits today. While her brothers continued farming in Fillmore County, Lillian and her sister pursued degrees, both graduated from the University of Nebraska, leading the succession of many family Cornhuskers to follow.

Starting out, Lillian taught home economics and drama near Cozad, NE then served as a civilian employee of the US Army during WWII in St. Louis, MO feeding US troops and developing large scale food service techniques. This experience led her to pursue a career at Mutual of Omaha, where she headed the world's largest independent cafeteria & restaurant operation for over 30 years during a time when American women were just beginning to gain traction in the post-war work force. A longtime member and president of Quota International dedicated to global women's needs, she sponsored many to overcome barriers, build skills, and serve their communities. Lillian typified America's Greatest Generation with tremendous energy and commitment to the institutions and the people she led and served. Fierce as both adversary and loyal ally, these traits were key when she astonished the local medical community by determining to become a mother at age 46 during the 60s decade of great social, political, and economic tumult. True to form, Lillian embraced this with courage and grace. With her husband, Hermann Salzer (died 1988), an immigrant from Hungary, she raised one child, Dave, in Omaha and Exeter, maintaining her household and career until her early retirement in 1978 to focus on parenting. She guided a headstrong boy to pursue academic achievement and to prioritize citizenship. She fostered self-discipline, duty, creativity, exploration, and discovery with many learning trips to museums, events and historical places. A genuine patriot, she loved being a Navy officer's mom, adopting many of Dave's military companions over his 20-year career around the USA.

Lillian championed Omaha as a patroness of the Symphony Orchestra, Community Playhouse, St. Pius X Catholic Parish, Henry Doorly Zoo, Lauritzen Gardens, and Fontenelle Forest. She served as a docent at the General Crook House Museum of Historic Fort Omaha, and taught at the Omaha Hearing School for Children. Lillian travelled prolifically in retirement through Europe, Africa, the Holy Land, and North America. Reconnecting with her Czech family in Pisek, Bohemia was a highlight of her life. Lillian loved music and nature, lived for adventure, and has inspired countless many with her industriousness and durability. Her activism and diverse charitable legacy spans numerous causes in environmental stewardship and civic guardianship. She created and sustained community wherever she dwelled, including her wonderful final years at Samaritan Village in Hughson, CA with grandkids. Her son and his family in California, her nieces, nephews and hundreds of loving friends around the world will carry her torch for generations. Remembrances will be held in Hughson, Omaha, and Exeter where she will lay beside her mother and hero, Anna. Rest in peace, Lillian, much loved daughter of the Great Plains.

Cemetery Details

Exeter Cemetery

Exeter, NE 68351

Tribute Wall



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Lillian (Klemm) Salzer.*



July 14, 2018 at 10:23 AM



“ *Dave,
We would like to extend our deepest condolences to you on the loss of your mother. She was a great person who accomplished so much! You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jeff and Ted Timmermans

Jeff Timmermans - July 10, 2018 at 11:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



David Salzer - July 10, 2018 at 10:50 PM

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



David Salzer - July 06, 2018 at 09:30 AM