



Myra Graff

April 10, 2005

Myra J. Graff, 90, of Kankakee, died Sunday (April 10, 2005) at the Miller Center. She was born June 30, 1914, in Johnston City, to Clara and James White, both now deceased. The former Myra Jane White was married to Dr. Richard J. Graff in Danville, on July 10, 1948. Dr. Graff retired in 1966, after a 37-year career with the State Mental Health Department. He died in 1981. At the time of his retirement he was superintendent of Manteno State Hospital. Surviving Mrs. Graff are six nieces and two nephews; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and several great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. Two sisters, Vivian Favorite of Sarasota, Fla., and Norma Lowe of Pana, are now deceased. Mrs. Graff graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, in 1936. In 2001 the college honored her with the Community Service Award. She taught in high schools in Jasonville, Ind., and at Chester, Tuscola and Danville in Illinois. She also worked in the personnel department of the State Civil Service Commission in Springfield. She had attended summer schools at Indiana State Teachers' College, University of Colorado, Butler University and Indiana University. She had served as president of the American Association of University Women here and as president of the Kankakee County Medical Auxiliary. In the Illinois State Medical Auxiliary she had served on several hospitality committees for national conventions. In 1991, she served as historian for the Kankakee Country Club's 75th year. She was a member of the Kankakee Historical Society, the Kankakee Symphony, the Kankakee Valley Theatre, Asbury United Methodist Church and the

Kankakee Country Club. She had been active in theater groups, including Danville's Red Mask Theatre group, and had served on the Charter Board for the Kankakee Valley Theatre. Also, she had served 15 years on the Helen Wheeler Center Board, an organization for which her husband had served as president. She was a former member of the Symphony Chorus and the Sweet Adelines Chorus. She wrote and presented many light-hearted and hilarious skits around town, especially in golf groups, and she maintained a strong interest in all the arts -- dance, theatre, symphony, etc. An active sports enthusiast all her life, she was deeply involved with tennis from the age of nine through college, and played golf all the years after college. In addition to three holes-in-one, she felt her greatest accomplishment in golf was a score of 79 on Sept. 18, 1979 at the Elks Country Club. She also participated in many tournaments sponsored by the Illinois Women's Golf Association. In 1998, she was named as Riverside's Samaritan of the Year, and in 2001 she was appointed to Riverside's Foundation Board. She was a member of Riverside's Legacy group and of Mayo Hospital's Legacy group. She held an honorary lifetime membership at Provena-St. Mary's Fitness Center, and in 2002 she was given an honorary lifetime membership in the Kankakee Country Club's Lady Golfers' 18-hole group. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. Thursday until the 1 p.m. services at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, West Kankakee. Burial will be in Mound Grove Gardens. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or to the donor's choice.

Tribute Wall



“ I met Mrs. Graff last summer. My grandsons were doing yard work and put a flyer in her door. She was reluctant to have young boys work in her yard, so I went over and talked with her about it. She was kind enough to give them a chance, and said afterwards that they did a good job. I had a delightful conversation with her and in that very short visit determined that she was an extraordinary woman. I'm sure her family will miss her.##imported-begin##Glendal Kilbride##imported-end##

April 12, 2005 at 08:24 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Julie and Dick Teeple##imported-end##

April 12, 2005 at 08:24 AM



“ Mrs Graff was a very special person in a lot of ways. I will always remember her bringing in her special cookies and desserts for the various golf functions held at the country club. She was always very nice and polite as can be. She would certainly let you know when things were not right with her parties or food, but at the same time would let you know how pleased she was with everything. She will be missed. Rest in peace, Mrs Graff.##imported-begin##Daniel Barry##imported-end##

April 12, 2005 at 08:24 AM



“ Myra, I will miss your charm, your wit and your friendship! I was planning on you being at the Pro Am check-in table on June 3rd!! I know you will be there in spirit with us! You have been a wonderful "young" friend to our family and in my job at Riverside! May you be at peace in Heaven with your loving husband, Dick. God bless you.##imported-begin##Cindy Swaim##imported-end##

April 12, 2005 at 08:24 AM



“ Will miss you on the course. Will pray that you continue golfing in heaven.##imported-begin##Nancy Colclasure##imported-end##

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“ Myra was one great lady. I met and knew Myra because of our mutual love of music (barbershop chorus brought us together). In fact, three other gals, Kathy Tingley, Marty Howard, Carol Mest and myself formed a quartet and sang in her honor at her 75th birthday celebration at the K3 Country Club. She certainly knew how to throw a party!

I admired Myra's energy and enthusiasm and hope that if I live as long as she did that I will have the love of life she had. She was truly remarkable through aches and pains and bad knees!! She was tireless in her efforts to help the community and pitched in wherever she could.

I will truly miss her, although I hadn't seen her in several years. She sent me some newspaper clippings from her younger days a couple of years ago and I will cherish them. She was a great friend to many, and I am so happy I had the good fortune to know her.

I remember how often she spoke of her niece, Lara and the two boys in Springfield. I never met them but felt I knew them from her stories. She was quite the storyteller.

My heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Ruth Johnston
P. S.
Myra brought me back a pair of Eiffel Tower earrings from Paris a number of years ago. I will treasure them always.##imported-begin##Ruth A. Johnston##imported-end##

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