

Minnette E. Summers



Occupant Name: Minnette E. Summers

Location: **Section 7, Lot 11**

Date of Birth: 12/27/1915

Date of Death: 9/6/2007

Date of Burial: 9/11/2007

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: Marion Summers

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



Minnette E. Summers, 91, Brownstown, died at 3:03 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007, at Schneck Medical Center, Seymour. Mrs. Summers was a member of Brownstown Presbyterian Church and was involved with many church activities. She was the retired owner and officer of Marion Kay Products (currently known as Marion-Kay Spices). She was a member of Eastern Star for more than 50 years, served on the board of directors of the Jackson County Juvenile Home for 25 years and served on the Schneck Medical Center Foundation. She also was a member and officer in the Brownstown Business and Professional Women organization, the Brownstown Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, was a voting member in the national Amateur Athletic Union, an active member of the Southern Indiana Center for the Arts (SICA), and a supporter of the Jackson County Community Theatre. She was a self-taught painter and was instrumental in bringing the "East Meets West" art exhibit to SICA from Tokyo, Japan. The exhibit was followed up with a showcase of Indiana art in a gallery in Tokyo, with a room dedicated in her honor. She and her late husband were honored as grand marshals of the Watermelon Festival and she was selected as Woman of the Year in 1985. She enjoyed traveling with her late husband, Marion Kordell "Bill" Summers, especially to the 1960 Olympics in Rome and later to Japan in 1964. Their travels included stops in Hawaii, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. Mexico was another stop for the Olympics. Her husband included her with him as he served on the U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball Committee for 12 years. She helped him on trips to Poland and Russia with the U.S. team. In Munich, Germany, she witnessed some of the tragic events of the PLO killing members of the Israel team and taking others hostage, which almost halted the Olympics in 1972. Olympic basketball was the reason for a trip to Brazil with stopovers in Chile and Machu Picchu atop the mountains in Peru. They also traveled to the Canary Islands and the coast of Africa. It was a real adventure on a flying boat to Tahiti to see vanilla beans in bloom to help Mr. Summers write his booklet on vanilla with photos that they took. They also studied vanilla in Mexico. In Hawaii, she got her start on oil painting with an artist who was painting in public to sell his art. She was inspired by painting and taught herself how to paint with oils and pastels. Hawaii was a favorite spot for the Summereses and they made it an annual trip for many years. Some trips were to investigate spices and flavors as this was their business. After he died, she traveled for several years with friends, including one trip on the Columbia River. When she got off the boat to visit a museum, she missed the boat. She was rescued by the Coast Guard and had a big audience when she climbed down the side of the dock on a ladder with the help of three or four sailors aboard the ship. The Summereses went to Alaska and also fishing each summer in Lake of Woods, Ontario, Canada, with a travel trailer. They traveled to many states in the United States. She narrated many movies that were taken during trips to these foreign countries. Born Dec. 27, 1915, in St. Louis, Mo., she was a daughter of August Joseph Rebstock and Louise Kohl, both of whom preceded her in death. On July 3, 1949, she married M.K. "Bill" Summers, who preceded her in death in 1984. Survivors include two stepdaughters, Shirley Mae Prasse, St. Louis, Mo., and Beverly Ferguson, Springfield, Mo.; one sister-in-law, Anne Rebstock, St. Louis, Mo.; 18 grandchildren, John Reid, Carol (Nash) Reid, Jeanne (White) Reid, Katherine (Meador) Reid, Pamela (Warren) Reid, Kordell Reid, Sheryl (Leahy) Prasse, Fred Prasse, Laura (Michaels) Dale, Karen (Kent) Dale, Elizabeth Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, Mary (Larson) Ferguson, Thomas Ferguson, James Ferguson, Laura (Boyle) Ferguson, John Ferguson, and William Ferguson; 35 great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; four nieces and nephews; and six great-nieces and -nephews. She was preceded in death by two stepdaughters, Madelyn Katherine Reid and L.Orida Dale; two grandchildren, John Benton Dale and James Robert Reid Jr.; two great-grandchildren, Brett Prasse and Madelynn Miller Reid; and one brother, August J. Rebstock Jr. Pastor Brad Napier and Duane Aelick will conduct funeral services at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Brownstown Presbyterian Church. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery, Brownstown. Friends may call from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at Spurgeon Funeral Home Inc., Brownstown, and from 10 a.m. until time of service Tuesday at the church. Memorials may be given to Brownstown Presbyterian Church and the Don and Dana Myers Cancer Center.

