



Emile Stingley Leighty

January 27, 1936 - September 26, 2020

Emile Stingley Leighty, 84, went to be with the Lord on September 26, 2020.

She was born on January 27, 1936, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the daughter of Emil Herman and Gladys Margaret Sonneman.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, H.D. (Ike) Leighty and her brother Bill Sonneman.

Survivors include a son, Chuck Pearce (Linda) of Little Rock, AR.; two daughters, Robin (Tom) Sedley and Susan Baldwin, both of Houston, Texas. Three grandchildren, Christopher Pearce and Adam Pearce (Amberlie) of Little Rock and Alexa Pearce of Fayetteville, AR. Two sisters, Mary Kate (Bob) Arrington of Little Rock and Sarah Agee of Fayetteville; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Emile was a graduate of Fayetteville High School and then initially attended Lindenwood College (now University) where she avidly pursued her passion of being an equestrian. In addition, she was an accomplished pianist and continued to play until her death.

In 1955, she married LeRoy Pearce, and they had three children together. The family moved frequently with LeRoy's advancement as a collegiate football

coach, the last location of which was Miami, Florida where she obtained her Masters degree in Education. About that same time she became interested in and later impassioned with becoming an artist. She mastered multiple mediums, to include pottery, oil painting, textile collages, quilts and her favorite, and most challenging, water colors. She has won numerous art shows and has donated several pieces for charity auction.

After marrying Ike Leighty in 2004, they settled in Waterloo, Iowa, and traveled extensively throughout the world, oftentimes in association with DOCA, Defense Orientation Conference Association of which Ike was a member. Ike and Emile wintered in Florida where she became a benefactor of Van Wezel Performing Arts and enthusiastically attended as many of the shows as possible. Upon Ike's death, she moved permanently to Palmetto, Florida, continuing her relationship with Van Wezel, her art, and supporting many local charities.

She will be missed by many and was a friend to all, often described as "never having met a stranger". Memorials in her honor may be made to HOPE Chest, 1215 8th Ave W, Bradenton, FL, 34205

Tribute Wall

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“ Miss EMILE was a precious soul who I admired dearly. Her daughter, SUSAN and I saddled up the horses as I road, SONY, and as we road off I would look back and see at the time, Mrs. Pearce waving so briskly to us. I would always give her sweet self a big smile. I loved her, I love SUSAN, I loved LEROY(Susan’s daddy) deeply and remember not anything but SUPER TIMES WITH ALL OF THEM. Mr. LEROY AND EMILE COACHED ME IN □. I’ll never forget when SUSAN and I took her neon green beadle bug comfortable for a spin when we returned she said,” u girls, now just pull that in here and go on.” She was surely a hoot that will always make my heart smile and world gleam. CHUCK, ROBIN, and SUSAN, I am so so sad hearted to hear about your mother and your dad. Hold your heads up high and forever know how much all of u mean to me. GOD BLESS U ALL! Warmly, Cheryl Fiser

cheryl fiser - January 16, 2023 at 04:08 PM