



Rita A. "Re" Hardy

July 4, 1932 - August 22, 2016

Rita A. "Re" Hardy, age 84 of Highland, IL, died Monday, August 22, 2016, at her residence in Highland, IL.

She was born July 04, 1932, in Emmaus, PA, the daughter of Harold and Marguerite (nee Bruder) Giering.

On April 28, 1951, she married Robert Gene "Bob" Hardy in Piggott, AR. He passed away on April 18, 1993.

She was a member of Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville Foundation [Board of Directors; President 2001-2003]; Highland Area Community Foundation [Board of Directors and Founding Member]; James S. McDonald USO-St. Louis [Lifetime Board Member]; American Legion Post 0665 [Life Member];.

Re was born in Emmaus, PA and entered the US Air Force upon graduation from Emmaus High School. She attended Basic Training at Lackland, AFB in San Antonio, TX. She trained in Radio Communications at Scott AFB and was assigned to Norton AFB in San Bernadino, CA. After her service, she and her husband moved to the Belleville area except for a few years while he was stationed in the Philippines. They moved to Highland in 1977. When she was younger, she had been a professional singer with local bands and orchestras

participating in many musical activities throughout the metro area. She had managed a family owned hobby shop in Belleville and had also created "Re-Bound Company" - a line of tennis clothes that were manufactured and distributed to sport outlets in the St. Louis area. Re was a member of the Daughter's of the Nile at Ainad Temple in East Saint Louis - her husband had been Potentate in 1976. She was sewing chairman for items requisitioned by their National Chapter; she also sang in their choir. Re was married for 42 years to the late Bob Hardy, broadcaster with KMOX/CBS in St. Louis. Some of her accomplishments : James S. McDonnell USO at Lambert Airport [Board of Directors since 1981] She had served as Public Relations Chairman, Special Events Chairman for the Annual USO Golf Tournament. Re was recognized for her many efforts with special recognition: USO Special Award/Outstanding Contributions Award/Outstanding Achievement Award/National USO Best Year-round Public Relations Award; American Heart Association Award -1998; SIU-E Distinguished Service Award - 2006 She established and endowed the Bob Hardy Broadcast Journalism Scholarship at SIUE She had been a major sponsor of The Gardens at SIU-E. Re was an active snow skier and boater in earlier years. In recent years she had made and donated baby blankets for children's hospitals in the St. Louis Metro Area.

Survivors include :

Daughter - Sandra L. "Sandy" (Glen W.) Chinn, Highland, IL

Grandchild - Stacey R. (Husband Michael L. Grant) Chinn, Boynton Beach, FL

Grandchild - Jennifer M. Hardy, Chicago, IL

Brother - Richard H. (Carol) Giering, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Sister - Sandra M. Ripple, Pocahontas, IL

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Harold Augustus Giering died in 1944

Mother - Marguerite A. Giering nee Bruder died 02/18/2002

Husband - Robert G. "Bob" Hardy died 4/18/1993

Son - Robert G. Hardy Jr. died 6/5/1998

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, August 26, 2016, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to James S. McDonnell USO or Rita and Bob Hardy City Beautification Fund with Highland Area Community Foundation or SIU-E Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home & Dauderman Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Rita A. "Re" Hardy*



Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - August 25, 2016 at 12:04 PM

JC

“ *Sandy and Glen. Sending our sympathy to you during this sad time.*



Jan Covili - August 30, 2016 at 01:37 PM



“ *51 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - August 25, 2016 at 12:01 PM

TL

“ Our sincere condolences to the family on Re's passing. A truly amazing and kind woman, Re made a difference in the lives of many - and always stood for Metro-East.

She partnered with Bob on so many community initiatives and had many of her own. Her acts of kindness will be remembered, always.

We're thinking of you, Sandy & Glen, the grandkids and to Re's many friends....

Tom & Mary Langmyer - August 24, 2016 at 03:54 PM

JB

“ Over the years I had the pleasure of meeting Rita many times through Highland organizations. She was always a very pleasant and kind person. Her contributions to our community were greatly appreciated, as was her simple presence at events. She added grace and dignity where ever she went. She will be missed.

Jim Burgett - August 23, 2016 at 08:19 AM