



Gisela 'Jill' Beyer Bartlett

October 9, 1942 - April 6, 2014

Gisela (Jill) Beyer Bartlett of Athens passed away on Sunday, April 6, 2014. Jill, born in Berlin, Germany, during World War II, was a young girl when she moved to the United States with her parents and settled in Huntsville, where her father was a member of the Wernher von Braun rocket team. She was extremely proud to be a naturalized American citizen. Jill met her future husband, Jerry, when they were both students at Florence State College. Following their wedding, Jerry and Jill settled in Birmingham, where Jill completed her degree in German and Education at Samford University while Jerry attended Cumberland School of Law. Upon graduation the Bartlett's moved to Athens to teach – Jill at Athens High School, where she taught German and English; she completed a Masters in Teaching at Athens College. When Jerry became President of Athens State University, Jill poured her enthusiasm into hosting university and community events at the Beatty-Mason Home, developing its gardens, and caring for her beloved pets . Although Jill and Jerry only had one child, through her 36 years of teaching she parented thousands of students. She especially loved introducing them to foreign languages and cultures, and chaperoning them on trips abroad. Jill loved seeing her students experience Europe for the first time, and after retirement, had the opportunity to visit new lands herself – traveling with her daughter and son-in-law, Foreign service Officers with the U.S. Department of State to Brazil, South Korea, China, Egypt and numerous countries. She looked forward to visiting her daughter and son-in-law this summer in Lithuania, their

next assignment. Jill is survived by her husband, Jerry Franklin Bartlett, of Athens; and a daughter, Heidi Bartlett Evans, and husband Somerville of Arlington, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rudolf and Rosel Beyer. A celebration of Jill's life will be held at 2 pm on Friday, April 11, at First United Methodist Church in Athens with the Reverend Jimmy Bassham presiding. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jerry and Jill Bartlett Scholarship at Athens State University, the Athens Limestone Animal shelter, or Limestone County Churches Involved.

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *My thoughts & prayers are with you all! Love, Ashley*

Ashley Smith Patterson - April 17, 2014 at 09:32 AM

SB

“ *We are sorry for your loss, Jerry, Heidi, and Sommerville. So many people were blessed by Gisela's life and will miss her. We hope her memory will be sweet for you and all those who knew her*

Sherman and Gail Banks - April 11, 2014 at 09:37 AM

CM

“ *Jerry and Heidi, we are so sorry about the passing of Jill. She was a wonderful woman and a great asset to our world. No one will ever be able to take her place. We love you and send our thoughts and prayers to you in this time of sorrow. - Harry and Cassandra*

Cassandra and Harry Moore - April 10, 2014 at 11:08 PM

MB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family in the loss of one of the nicest, most caring and thoughtful people I have ever known. I feel so blessed to have known her as a friend and shared many good times together.*

Mary Byrd - April 10, 2014 at 09:39 PM

DH

“ Jerry, we were so saddened to hear of Jill's passing. Although we hadn't known her very long, she was a beautiful lady that we loved as a friend and neighbor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We shall miss her wonderful smile and bubbly personality.

Don and Sherry Humphries - April 10, 2014 at 05:18 PM

JY

“ She made the world a better place to be in. I was lucky to call her my teacher but more importantly my friend.

Janis (Jesse) Yarbrough - April 10, 2014 at 05:11 PM

MI

“ Mrs. Bartlett was my high school German teacher and has always stood out as one of my favorites. She was my initial introduction to the German language and now, years later, I find myself living in Germany and thinking back to those high school lessons with her. She was one of the great ones and will be remembered fondly and missed by many of her former students.

Michael - April 10, 2014 at 02:41 PM

PT

“ I feel blessed to have known Mrs. Bartlett. She left a tremendously positive mark on my life. Much love and peace to you all.

Paula M Todd - April 10, 2014 at 11:37 AM

EF

“ I'm thankful to have known her.

Eldred M. Fletcher - April 09, 2014 at 10:25 PM

RR

“ So sorry for your loss. My son, Michael, traveled with Mrs. Bartlett to Germany once. All I heard after that is what a wonderful woman she was! I pray you will find peace.

Roberta Ress - April 09, 2014 at 09:06 PM

RM

“ Mrs. Bartlett was a good friend of our family during my dad's years at Athens State. My only regret is that I did not take her german class when I was in high school.

Russell McNutt - April 09, 2014 at 07:20 PM

JB

“ Jerry, Heidi, Sommerville ,praying for you.

Judith Reid Burton - April 09, 2014 at 05:47 PM

CW

“ Very nice obituary, Heidi and Jerry. Jill would be the first to approve.

Cherry Anne and Bill Ward - April 09, 2014 at 03:03 PM

AW

“ Such a terrible loss! Praying for all of you, Andy and Linda Wellden

Andy and Linda Wellden - April 09, 2014 at 12:25 PM

CW

“ Our thoughts are with you from London, Heidi, Somerville and Dad. We are very sorry for your loss. Take comfort in how beloved she is to her students, friends and family.

Chuck & Tricia Wingerter - April 09, 2014 at 10:27 AM

AK

“ *My deepest sympathy to Jill's family. She was an amazing woman, who touched so many people's lives in a positive manner. She will be missed terribly.*

Antoinette Kauffman - April 09, 2014 at 09:17 AM

JP

“ *Thank you for being my teacher and friend to my family*

Joe Prince - April 08, 2014 at 08:29 PM

SC

“ *Mrs. B,
Your influence and goodness will continue through those of us lucky enough to have known you. I truly believe that your example of kindness and understanding and compassion to everyone regardless of status, gender, intelligence, religious beliefs, etc changed me.*

Stephanie Blakely Calabrace - April 08, 2014 at 05:17 PM

JW

“ *So sorry to hear of Jill's passing. She was a fine lady and will be truly missed. Think of both Dr. Bartlett and Heidi. LIOB, Jill. Jannine*

Jannine Ezell Williams - April 08, 2014 at 04:48 PM