



Obituary for Elizabeth Sachse

2/2/1923 - 3/17/2013

Elizabeth Sachse, a former teacher, tennis coach, and active volunteer and community member, died on Sunday, March 17, in East Lansing, Michigan. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Elizabeth's achievements are impressive and many, but more importantly, she was beloved by everyone who met her. The people who would call her "friend" number in the hundreds, and, in her later years, she was lovingly known as Granny by many, many more than her own devoted grandchildren. She was strength, kindness, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, wit, and smarts in smiling personification—a true and lasting inspiration.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Decker and elder sister of Esther, she was born on February 2, 1923, in Electra, Texas. Raised in this small town known for ranching, farming, and oil production, Elizabeth also spent the summers at a family home in the picturesque Michigan Methodist resort community, Bay View. She played tennis for Electra High School, repeatedly advancing to regionals before graduating in 1940. She then attended Christian College in Columbia, Mo., graduating in 1942, and completed her education by earning a BS in Physical Education at the University of Texas in 1944. She married Jack Sachse on June 9, 1943, and had a daughter and two sons; the couple divorced and Elizabeth and her children returned to Electra, where she taught history and geography at Electra Junior High. Three years later she moved on to the high school.

Although Elizabeth began teaching math, science, and physical education at Electra High School in 1957, she will forever be known as the town's "First Lady of Tennis." During her 23-year coaching tenure, the tennis team won 20 district titles, advanced to regionals 20 times, and went to the state tournament 10 times. The town's tennis courts were officially named after her in 2007. She also coached volleyball, sponsored the cheerleaders, started the Girls Athletic Association, and, for 22 years, sponsored and edited the high school year book.

Elizabeth's commitment to education and her community doesn't stop there. A member of the Electra Classroom Teachers Association, she helped found the Electra Classroom Teachers scholarship program;

she was also a member of the honorary teacher's group, Delta Kappa Gamma, since 1962. Named Electra Woman of the Year in 1978, she retired from teaching the following year, but was a member of the school board from 1980-86 and was named Ex-Teacher of the Year in 1985. Elizabeth was also a teacher in the local adult literacy program, a member of South Electra Extension Education and Friends of the Library, served on the board of Electra Service Corp from 1979-87, taught AARP Defensive Driving, and volunteered with Meals on Wheels. She was recognized for her service to the Twentieth Century Club in 2005, and was active in Electra's First United Methodist Church, where she served as a lay leader and Sunday School teacher.

Elizabeth also carried on her family's tradition of returning to Bay View every summer, sharing this peaceful, special place with her own children and two generations that followed. Here, amid family and numerous close friends, she'd spend the summer making jelly and baking, playing cribbage, bridge, and euchre, hosting birthdays, weddings, a festive Fourth of July party, and elaborate game nights with prizes, telling stories, watching the sun set over Lake Michigan, and lavishing warmth and love on everyone who stopped by.

In 2007, Elizabeth was named Electra's Centennial Queen and was joined by her entire family to celebrate her "queen status" and honor her commitment to her hometown. She moved to East Lansing, Michigan in 2011 to be closer to her daughter and found yet another family at Timber Ridge, but remained connected with Electra.

Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, Jane (Jeff) Andros; two sons, Deck (Donna) Sachse and Robert (Beth) Sachse; honorary daughter, Barbara (Ken) Patton; seven grandchildren, Alex (Cathy) Andros, Amy (Jeremy) Piper, Deck (Nina) Sachse, Chris (Anna) Sachse, Brian (Katie) Sachse, Jon Sachse, and Brand (Randi) Spragins; honorary grandchildren, Cody and Kenni Patton; 11 ½ great-grandchildren; and a lot of other people who call her Granny.

Services to celebrate her life will be held on April 13 at 1PM at the First United Methodist Church in Electra and June 24 at 10:30AM in Bay View.

Donations in her honor may be sent to the First United Methodist Church in Electra, Texas (1107 S. Bailey St., 76360) or to the Bay View Association in Bay View, Michigan (1715 Encampment Ave., 49770). The family is being served by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing, MI. Online condolences may be made at:

www.greastlansing.com.