



Erma Sue Raynor

August 17, 1924 - September 17, 2019

Wilmington - Erma ("Ernie") Raynor, 95 wonderful years old, started a new journey on September 17th.

She was born in Apex, N.C., as the youngest of twelve children to Katie L. Tew and Herbert Lee Holland. She graduated from Apex High School and worked for Southern Bell Telephone Company in Raleigh until she met Wilbur A. Raynor, the love of her life, and literally took flight with him in 1948 to Savannah, Georgia to get married. The article in the Savannah newspaper was entitled "Cupid on Wings" and that exciting flight never landed.

As private pilots, Ernie and Wilbur traveled extensively in the air and also enjoyed many years of spending summers in Linville, NC, with their Airstream friends. They owned Raynor's Jewelry Company in Louisburg and Raleigh Wholesale Jewelry Company in Raleigh until the 1970s. Ernie loved teaching the beauty of china, crystal, silver and jewelry in her store. Their home was Louisburg until Wilbur's death in 2004 at which time Ernie moved to Raleigh for a few years and then onto Wilmington where she enjoyed a happy and full life of exercising, singing, dancing, concerts, and many marvelous friends. She always exemplified the "true southern lady" in her style and manners. Ernie is survived by her daughter, Margot H. Raynor, of Wilmington, "Dr. Beth" Wilson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ernie was dearly loved and well cared for in her last years of blindness by special family friends Mary Bland, Mittie Freeman, Louise Salley, and Linda Mills. Their playful times together brought much laughter, singing, and

happiness that enriched their lives. Caregivers who gave Ernie much joy were Claire Hunt, Kizy and LaShell Johnson, and Lawanda Bowen.

So, “Cheers” to Ernie! Pour your favorite drink and raise your glass to her fabulous life and gentle journey. She would wish the same for you.

Tribute Wall

JS

“*Margot, I was so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. I have such great memories of your mom at the store, at your house and growing up in Louisburg. She was such a beloved person and so stylish! I would love to see you and catch up after all these years. My Mom and Dad thought so much of your parents. I can hear her voice right now after we did some crazy kid things she did not approve of!!!! There will never be another Ernie!!!! Take care and may the many memories bring you joy! I would love to hear from you!*”

Julie Saunders - September 23, 2019 at 12:23 PM

FA

“*Thinking of you Margot*”

Frances Arnold - September 21, 2019 at 09:55 AM

DG

“*I will miss Aunt Erma as she is the last of my father's siblings. She was a beautiful woman inside and out.*”

Doris Gilbert - September 20, 2019 at 01:51 PM

DS

“*Margot you have my deepest condolences.*”

Deb Shearin - September 19, 2019 at 07:30 PM

CD

“Ernie was a gracious and beautiful lady, and devoted wife, and mother to my dear friend of many years, Margot. It was my privilege to know such a kind and gentle woman who obviously cherished and enjoyed life to the fullest. Her devotion to her husband through good times and difficult ones was returned by her loving and devoted daughter. Rest in eternal peace, with other bright lights that eagerly wait for you now.

Charles Drake - September 18, 2019 at 06:00 PM