



Theodora Bach

October 16, 1918 - April 18, 2019

Theodora “Tippy” Bach of Morton, IL and formerly of Carbondale, passed away, Thursday, April 18, 2019 in Apostolic Christian Restmore in Morton.

Theodora “Tippy” Bach was born Theodora Josephine Helgeson on a farm in Soldiers Grove, a small village in rural Wisconsin, on October 16, 1918 to Norwegian-American parents, and was raised speaking Norse as her primary language during the first six years of her life. Always an honors student, she worked her way through LaCrosse State Teachers College. Active as a thespian, she met her husband of 68 years, Jacob Sr., in the school’s theater company production of “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”. She carried her love of acting and great literature throughout her life, attending Shakespeare productions in London, Ontario, and San Diego. She continued to perform in community theatre well into retirement, including the lead roles in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and “Foxfire”.

Following graduation, she married Jake in 1942 in the middle of WWII. With her husband away fighting in the Pacific, she had to fend for herself as a young Navy wife at the huge naval base at Norfolk. Like “Rosie the Riveter”, she worked the “graveyard shift” in a defense plant. Taking in a younger Navy wife as a “roomer” may have helped Tippy conceive and execute the small business plan she launched in Madison, WI. With Jake working on his PhD at the University of Wisconsin after the war, she saw an opportunity to provide returning vets a safe place to live and study as they worked their way through school by retrofitting and furnishing a large house near campus to serve as a boarding home. Working solo at a time when few women were starting businesses, she presented her plan to the bank and negotiated the loan by herself, then housed 10 ex-servicemen going to school on the GI Bill—even as she cared for her growing family and Jake’s parents.

In 1951, Tippy and Jake moved to Carbondale, Illinois where she continued to raise her family. She earned a Master’s degree in Speech Pathology from SIU-C in 1961. During the next two years, she commuted to three different grade schools in Du Quoin, IL, helping children with speech defects as a district-wide Speech Pathologist. In 1964, she took a job as an English teacher at CCHS in Carbondale and coached the speech and debate teams, regularly taking her students to state finalist competitions. Poetry called her

as well—both in inspiring students and friends and in the art of reflecting on life's experiences and meanings. She wrote for publication, but also for herself.

She was active in the Garden Club and served as a life-long member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. When Tippy retired from teaching, she attended an advanced course of Floral Design in Chicago and took charge of altar flower arrangements for most Sundays and did weddings and charity occasions as well. Early into their retirement, the Bach's caravanned in Mexico and toured the U.S. in their motorhomes. They also traveled extensively together throughout the European continent and made trips to Hawaii, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Japan, the Panama Canal and Belize.

Tippy was a life-long Lutheran, leading during a mission church startup and later multi-church consolidation. She held congregational offices and preached when needed. She was a stalwart supporter of WELCA, (Women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). Tippy was known for both elaborate and ethnic entertaining, Norwegian pastries, distinctive split pea soup, and fantastic apple pies that were sold at church auctions for \$50/pie.

Tippy is survived by three children, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a large extended family of nieces and nephews. She has been an inspiration to many as a mother, teacher, poet, coach and a friend and mentor to countless others. She went to our Lord on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week at the ripe old age of 100 years, six months, and two days. We will all miss her.

Funeral Service for Tippy will be in Epiphany Lutheran Church on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 11:00 am with Rev. Paul Waterman officiating. Entombment will follow in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Visitation will be from 5pm to 8pm on Monday, April 29, 2019 in Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) in care of Epiphany Lutheran Church of All Saints, 1501 W. Chautauqua St., Carbondale, IL 62901 and/or The Women's Shelter, 610 S. Thompson St., Carbondale, IL 62901.

Cemetery

**Pleasant Grove Memorial Park
Mausoleum**

MO,

Events

APR Visitation 05:00PM - 08:00PM

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Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral
Home

31 Memorial Dr., Murphysboro, IL, US,
62966

APR church service 11:00AM - 11:45AM

30

Epiphany Lutheran Church

1501 W. Chautauqua, Carbondale, IL,
US

Comments



“ I regret that I will be unable to attend services. Tippy was an amazing woman. I will treasure the time and memories we created. She taught me many things including the secret to living a long life. I'll give you a hint, it's Butter. As long as I breathe she will be remembered. My deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends who will miss her terribly.

Kim Thieleman - April 30 at 12:26 AM



“ Mrs. Bach was my favorite high school teacher. She made my love of literature more vibrant which led to my career as a university librarian. My deepest condolences to her family.

Rebecca Bigler Bostian - May 01 at 02:08 PM



“ Sherri Rorer lit a candle in memory of Theodora Bach



Sherri Rorer - April 29 at 02:05 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Mrs Bach's family and friends I will miss her.

Sherri Rorer - April 29 at 02:02 AM



“ What a great teacher and an inspiring person. My condolences to the Bach family.

Duncan Renfro

Duncan Renfro - April 28 at 11:26 PM



“ To the Family of Tippy Bach: This is Craig Hinde, one of the founders of the Stage Company community theater in 1982. In our early years Tippy became a staple of our acting group and I had the good fortune to be in a few plays with her. She was a delightful lady and a stalwart of our group in those early years. I also have found memories of being in her and Jake's home for after-performance cast parties. It has been many years since they were part of our group, but we miss them both.

William Craig Hinde - April 28 at 07:28 PM



“ A life well lived. I only wish I could have known her.

Clark Bush - April 28 at 07:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theodora Bach.



April 26 at 11:46 AM



“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



David Bach - April 25 at 11:00 PM



“ What an incredible woman Tippy was here on earth, and what a blessing to imagine how incredible she is now with her Lord and Savior! We already miss her so very much here at Restmor, and I know that our Mother's Day and Christmas celebrations won't be the same without her gifted contributions. You as a family have my love, sympathy, and prayers.

-Jeremiah Psinas, Apostolic Christian Restmor

Jeremiah Psinas - April 22 at 12:55 PM



“ To the mother of my dear friend, Rachel, may your beautiful soul rest in peace.



Rhonda Dameron - April 21 at 10:40 PM



“ From Ed and Rhonda Dameron-Jackson purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Theodora Bach.



From Ed and Rhonda Dameron-Jackson - April 21 at 10:29 PM



“ A great mother of a great friend. Tillie loved my cat!

sharon rose - April 21 at 10:25 AM



“ When my dear mentor Tippy retired from Carbondale Community High School,” I said this about her:

“Theodora ‘Tippy’ Bach was a pioneer among teachers. She was central to the relative smoothness in Carbondale, Illinois when schools were integrated. Wearing a fur hat and driving through the Black neighborhoods of Carbondale in her VW van, she would carry students to speech team practice several nights a week, then carry them back home in time to complete chores and homework. She did this cheerfully and without financial compensation because she believed in teaching for social justice. Teaching was her activism, and it mattered.”

Today, we still need teachers with Tippy’s heart. She had a profound influence on me as a nascent teacher, and I never forgot all she taught me. Throughout my 40+ years of teaching, I have tried to model her activism, her commitment to reaching every student in the classroom, and her endless service to others. For her to transition from

this Earth during Holy Week is indeed a fitting exit for one of God's beloved Servants. My love, prayers, and deep sympathy go to her beautiful family and to all who loved her.

With deep gratitude,
Karen S. Mitchell

Karen Mitchell - April 20 at 10:18 PM



“ My love goes out to all of Tippy's family. Thank you for sharing this wonderful lady with us at Restmor. She maintained a dignity and graciousness throughout her stay with us. I don't think I ever did anything for her, for which she did not say thank you. I was a charge nurse on second shift, but I always knew when we took care of Tippy , she was in charge! We miss her terribly! This Resurrection Sunday she is truly rejoicing!

Blessings to all of you ,

Ann Troyer , RN

Ann Troyer - April 21 at 09:23 AM



“ Condolences & sympathies to all the family & friends. It was a slice of heaven to have known Tippy & am sure she has a special place in heaven !

Dr. Arthur Herm - April 20 at 12:19 PM