



Esther Goff

August 15, 1913 - November 18, 2017

Esther Goff, age 104, passed away Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at Chesterfield. She was born August 15, 1913, in Paris, IL to William Heaton and Florence (Routledge) Goff.

She was named Ida Esther, but always preferred to be known by her middle name. The

youngest of five children, she was adored by her older brothers Guilford, Guinn, Orval, and

Gerald. The family lived on a farm near Hume, near Paris, IL.

Although her father died when Esther was only five, he taught her to read, and these memories

influenced her to become a teacher. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree

from Indiana State Teachers College and a Masters Degree from Washington University. She

also studied at the University of Chicago and Colorado University.

Early in her professional career, she taught in Illinois and Indiana. During World War II, she

aided the war effort by working as a mathematician for the Power Plant staff at Curtiss-Wright in

St. Louis, doing mathematics for the engineers designing planes. In later years, she taught

American Literature at the University of Missouri evening division.

In 1945 she began teaching at Normandy High School, retiring in 1976. During her tenure, she taught courses including American and British Literature, Advanced Placement World Literature, Latin, Humanities, and others. For many years she chaired the Fine Arts Department. She sponsored the Creative Writing Club, and often welcomed groups of students to her home on Lake Adelle. For several years, she accompanied students on study trips to Europe, bringing to life its history and literature. Many of her Normandy students became cherished, life-long friends who stayed in touch and visited her throughout her life, naming her as one of the most important influences in their life.

Teaching and learning were Miss Goff's passion. She also loved to read, listen to classical music and opera, and travel. She described herself as "a fanatical environmentalist." She loved all animals (especially dogs) and flowers (especially yellow roses). She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephew Donald Goff, and dear friend Lillian Chambers.

Surviving to cherish her memory are her nephew Michael (Marcia) Goff and great-nephews Jeffrey and Brandon (Rebecca) Goff, dear friend Sally Dobrunz, nephews Dudley and Sherwin Goff, great-nephews and -nieces, and countless friends, many of whom are former students.

At her request, no memorial service will be held. Memorials may be directed to the Esther Goff

Scholarship in care of the Normandy Alumni Association.

Tribute Wall



“ *Esther Goff*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *Miss Esther Goff will forever remain a huge part of my life. Every day that I've lived since knowing her I have used the gift she so freely gave to me. Her love of the English language and her reverence for learning was so effectively and effortlessly infused into my life that I hardly recognized it taking root and growing; and I am forever grateful for her. When asked who was my biggest influence from high school, I have and always answer without hesitation; Miss Esther Goff. May God be pleased with her life as she enters her eternal rest. To God be the Glory.*

Linda Wofford - Class of 1976 - November 27, 2017 at 10:17 PM

LM

“ Sometimes there are just some people you cannot imagine passing away, and Esther Goff was surely one. She was larger than life to me. The last time I had seen her was at her 104th birthday celebration at Cardwell's, this past September, hosted by classmate Wayne Brasler. A number of her students gathered to pay her tribute. She was warm, bright, alert, gracious, and always interested in what we were doing . . . *and* writing! All among us have gone on to become professional authors or English teachers due, in large part, to her amazing influence. She made books come alive for us, and taught us so much about life and the world through what we read. She herself never stopped learning and giving. She was one of the most vital, vibrant teachers and women I have ever met. Her passing is a tremendous loss, and I was saddened beyond words to have just discovered this. I am grateful for her love and influence, for her passion for language and for people, and for her interest in students for who they were and not just what they wrote. I shall never forget Miss Goff! I love you, Miss Goff, and I thank you for your contribution to my life.

Lynn Morrissey

Lynn Morrissey - November 27, 2017 at 01:33 AM



“ I was just thinking of her this week and what a wonderful teacher she was. She left a wonderful legacy of students who were touched by her.

Brenda LaTorre - November 26, 2017 at 11:02 AM

RB

“*Esther was a constant source of inspiration to me and many others. In high school she encouraged my love of reading and writing, and since 2000, when I returned to St. Louis, we enjoyed sharing memories, and a love of cinema and books. She will be missed but always remembered.*

Rosemary Cromer Boustany / Normandy class of 1957

Rosemary Boustany - November 26, 2017 at 10:08 AM