



Juanita Riepe Skipton

February 12, 1916 - December 10, 2014

Juanita Shelton Riepe, 98, of Vienna, Illinois, passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2014. Her family will receive guests during a visitation from 9:00 a.m. until 10:20 a.m., December 30, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church in Vienna. A Celebration of Life Service will then follow at 10:30 a.m. with the interment afterwards at the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery.

Juanita was born on February 12, 1916 to her parents, the Reverend Roy and Mary Seawright Shelton, in the Vienna Township near present-day Tunnel Hill in Johnson County, Illinois. She graduated from Karnak High School and attended McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois. She met her husband-to-be, Russell C. Riepe, at Anderson Church in Boaz, Illinois. They were married on October 12, 1936 in Massac County. After Russell passed away in June of 1976, she lived alone on the family farm in the Pond Community for twenty years before marrying John Skipton (deceased), an attorney and former Director of Finance for the State of Ohio.

For most of her life, Juanita taught elementary grades in a number of schools including Reevesville, New Columbia, Belknap, New Burnside, and New Simpson Hill, where she finally retired at the age of 70. An accomplished musician, she played the piano and organ, and for many years, she was the choral director at the First United Methodist Church in Vienna. She sang soprano and toured with the Southern Illinois University Oratorio Choir over a

span of about three decades. Juanita was a poet and an avid reader with interests covering a wide array of topics, and she was particularly fond of the classics, theology, and philosophy. Owing to the Shelton family's oral tradition, she could recite poems, stories, and sing songs by heart for hours at a time.

The oldest of nine children, she was preceded in death by her parents, the Reverend Roy and Mary Shelton, and her siblings, Myra June Smith, Mary Ruth Cannon, Major James Roy Shelton (U.S. Army and Silver Star Recipient), Charles Warren Shelton, and Kathryn Sue Hull.

A loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, teacher, and friend, her surviving next of kin include her son and his wife, Dr. Russell C. and Diana Pfannstiel Riepe; her grandchildren, Edward Russell and Mary Celeste Riepe; her sister, Helen Louise Knight; her sister-in-law, Lora Mae Shelton; and her two brothers and their wives, Wayne and Sonja Shelton and Dr. Robert McElroy and the Reverend Fran Shelton. Juanita's surviving nephews and nieces and their families include the Reverend James and Maribeth McGuire, Major David (Chaplain, U.S. Army retired) and Nora Smith, Dr. Melissa Cannon, Joyce Shelton, Matthew and Susan Gore, Terry Knight, the Reverend Geoffrey and Rose Anne Knight, Donald and Harriette Shelton, Steven and Dabney Shelton, Lori Shelton, Nancy Shelton, Robert Daniel and Tara Shelton, Dr. David Shelton, Robert Allen Hull and Sarah James, Thomas Hull, Michael Hull and the Reverend Robert Gahler, Dr. James Robert and Diane Shelton, Rich and Tamara Shelton Mackasey, Ken and Sarah Coward, and Robert and Naomi Ford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Roy and Mary Shelton Scholarship Fund at Bethel University, 325 Cherry Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201 or the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Cemetery Details

Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

N. 6th Street
Vienna, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
301 N. 4th St.
Vienna, IL

Service

DEC **30**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
301 N. 4th St.
Vienna, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Juanita Riepe Skipton*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Mrs. Riepe was my first teacher. She was ever so kind & beautiful! I learned so much from her. She taught us to sing "Silent Night" in German one year! I have such wonderful memories of this generous, caring lady!!*

R. Lanum-Delatour - August 01, 2021 at 09:53 PM



“ *Mrs. Riepe was my favorite teacher in grade school! I have so many memories of her reading us wonderful stories, poems and singing to us in class! She helped to deepen my love for great literature, and I often remember her when I read aloud to my own kids! I am so thankful for her contribution into my own life, and I know she positively impacted many others.*

Lisa Brown - December 28, 2014 at 03:52 PM



“ *Remember good times at your home, Russ. Your mother was a wonderful and talented lady. She sang at our wedding, but my first memories are of her and your father making music in your home.*
Mary Ellen Douglas Wood



Ellen Wood - December 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM

LB

“ Liz Bachelder lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Liz Bachelder - December 24, 2014 at 10:18 AM

RB

“ Richard And Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Richard and Karen Brumley - December 23, 2014 at 09:15 AM

MT

“ I was a student of Mrs. Riepe in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade at Tunnel Hill School. She remains my favorite teacher of a long list of good and great ones. She was a beautiful lady with the patience of a saint.



Mary Taylor - December 13, 2014 at 08:51 PM

FK

“ Floyd & Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Floyd & Linda Koehler - December 13, 2014 at 02:23 PM

PW

“ Pat Wilson lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Pat Wilson - December 13, 2014 at 08:53 AM

LW

“ Linda Shetler Weatherford lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Linda Shetler Weatherford - December 13, 2014 at 12:29 AM

JT

“ JACK TRAVELSTEAD lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



JACK TRAVELSTEAD - December 12, 2014 at 03:22 PM

JT

SWEET LADY. ALWAYS ENJOYED CONVERSATION WITH HER AT BILL'S FOOD MART IN VIENNA

JACK TRAVELSTEAD - December 12, 2014 at 03:23 PM

DL

“ Dear Russ and family, I taught with your mother at Tunnel Hill School. I have fond memories of our time together there. She was a beautiful lady, both inside and out. May your good memories help sustain you at this time.

Doris Lingle

Doris Lingle - December 12, 2014 at 02:42 PM

WD

“ Wayne Dunn lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Wayne Dunn - December 12, 2014 at 02:37 PM

LG

“ Lora Goddard lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



Lora Goddard - December 12, 2014 at 12:19 PM

JT

“ J C THOMAS lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



J C THOMAS - December 12, 2014 at 10:22 AM

RH

“ One of my favorite teachers, I had her in first, second and third grade and I also got to go home with her after school and play on the piano. I loved listening to her play. Our favorite time was when she took down her long hair and we watched as she braided it back up into a bun. She could really get mad at you and there are a few kids that I am sure remember. LOL She use to close the curtains when Dee Bug would ride his motorcycle past the school on one wheel and she always said that Boy is going to kill himself. Well Dee Bug is still here and she lived a long time too. We use to have my mom bring cake in for her birthday and we would cut little pieces of paper to throw when she came into the room and act surprised. I am glad she was in my life as a child and still as an adult. Russ and family I am sorry for your loss but I know that is she is with a full heart and thoughts and with your dad and Mr. Skipton.

Robin Harper-Whitehead - December 12, 2014 at 08:53 AM

JW

“ She played the piano at our wedding and done it beautifully. I remember her as a lovely lady and Bloomfield neighbor. Clearon & Jane Ross Wright

Jane Ross Wright - December 11, 2014 at 11:35 PM

JR

“ James & Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Juanita Riepe Skipton



James & Diane Rainbolt - December 11, 2014 at 05:25 PM