



## Eleanor Mary Niffenegger Thomas

December 19, 1916 - January 1, 2022

Eleanor Mary Niffenegger Thomas was born December 19, 1916 in Michigan. The youngest of eight children born to John and Mary Niffenegger, she grew up on an orchard farm eating fruits and vegetables which remained her regular diet for all of her 105 years. She graduated from Michael Reese School of Nursing as an RN, then attended the University of Michigan for her Public Health Nurse Certification. While working in Chicago she met her future husband at church. They married in 1941 and were married for 69 years. While Ashley served five years in the Army in Europe she worked as a Public Health Nurse and caregiver for her parents. For ten years, they owned and operated a restaurant in South Haven. After his retirement from teaching they moved to Northwest Arkansas where they were involved in their church and local organizations. In 2004 Ashley and Eleanor moved to Searcy to be near friends. They were members of First Presbyterian Church. Her sharp mind and ready wit were enjoyed by all who knew her.

Eleanor is survived by nieces and nephews and a host of friends. A special note of appreciation for her caregiver and friend, Carolyn Bowman.

With a positive outlook on life, strong interest in education and generous spirit the Thomases encouraged and assisted many young people in attending college. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Eleanor Thomas Nursing Scholarship at Harding University [Box 12238, Harding University,

Searcy, AR 72149] or to the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR.

A graveside service will be held at Center Hill Presbyterian Cemetery on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Searcy. [www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net).

# Previous Events

## Graveside

JAN **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Center Hill Presbyterian  
Hwy 36 W.  
Center Hill, AR 72143

# Tribute Wall

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“ Aunt Eleanor will always be in my heart. Though I never met her I loved talking to her. Rest in peace 🙏. Thanks to Carolyn for many years of service for her.

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**Karen Niffenegger** - January 08, 2022 at 02:40 PM

LS

*It was a very touching obituary. Although I don't know if I ever met Eleanor, my wife and I lived many years in South Haven, Michigan. I miss the orchards, the vineyards, and the blueberry patches. I was wondering what restaurant they ran in South Haven. Lee Selvidge Email: selvidgelee@gmail.com We live in Searcy, Arkansas now. Sorry for your loss.*

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**Lee Selvidge** - January 10, 2022 at 11:01 AM