

Elfriede Werner Ball | 1940-2014

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Elfriede "Elfie" Werner Ball

Elfriede "Elfie" Werner Ball, 73, died Friday, July 11, 2014, surrounded by family and friends.

Graveside service is 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, at Oaklawn Cemetery in Decatur with burial under the direction of Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home.

Elfie was born July 25, 1940, in Vollmerhausen, Germany, to Fritz and Hilda Werner. She was the eldest of two daughters and is survived by a sister, Freia, along with her husband, Wilfried Buermann, of Kassel, Germany. As a young girl, Elfie loved to be in the family bakery in Wellerode. In 1954, she and her family moved to Kassel where she went to school, worked in clothing stores and modeled for department stores. She left Germany at 19 to move to the United States to further her education at Columbia University in New York.

Although she left her home country, she visited Germany many times. She lived in San Antonio and Houston, then moved to Dallas where she lived for more than 33 years. While in Houston, she worked at American General Insurance as an executive secretary and as secretary to the board for many years. She was also elected assistant treasurer of AG Capital Management and was on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange when the American General Bond Fund was first traded.

Elfie was known by many for her kindness and thoughtfulness. She would often show up with baked goodies or delicious homemade chocolates. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, she fought a valiant battle with that and other illnesses. Her will to live, faith in God and the loving prayers of family, friends and many supporters helped her be strong until the end of her life.

Elfriede is survived by her husband, George Standley Ball Sr. to whom she was married for 40 years; children Patricia "Patty" Janca and her husband, Steve, of Victoria, and George S. Ball Jr. of Dallas; grandchildren Steven Janca and Lauren Janca Hoerig and her husband, Ryan, all of Victoria; and her first great-granddaughter, Harper Lee Hoerig, who is due in November. She also has one nephew, Ralph Buermann, his wife, Susanne, and their children, Johannes, Christoph and Sophia; and a niece, Yvonne Buermann, and her daughter, Michele, all of Kassel, Germany.