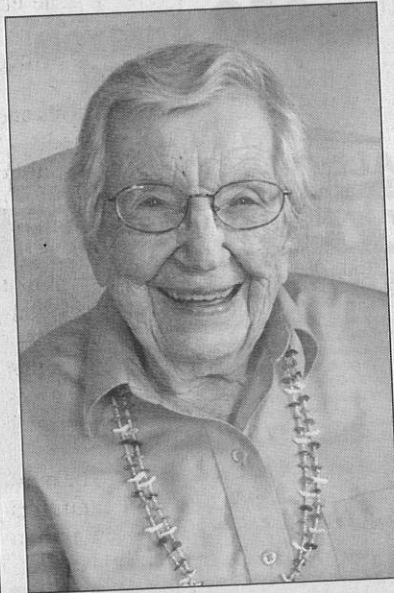


Annette Marie Cech, 1922 - 2022



Annette Cech passed away on July 2, 2022, at the St. Francis Manor in Grinnell, Iowa, a peaceful end to a long and productive life.

Annette was born on October 13, 1922, in Chicago, the daughter of Rose (Cerny) and Josef Cervený. She grew up in Berwyn, Illinois. After high school she worked for Home Federal Savings and Loan. It was then that she met Robert Cech, a medical student. They married in 1945, and their partnership thrived for seven decades. (Robert passed away in 2015.) They had three children, and the family lived sequentially in Iowa City, Iowa; Champaign, Illinois; Iowa City; and Des Moines, Iowa.

A gifted planner and organizer, Annette excelled in guiding family life. She also found inspiration in volunteer work. In Des Moines, she worked for forty years for the Planned Parenthood book sale, which "recycled" millions of books to new readers.

For years, Annette organized family summer camping adventures, which included many National Parks. The family visited the pueblos of New Mexico before they were widely known. In the 1970s, Robert and Annette reconnected with Annette's cousins in Czechoslovakia, and they enjoyed one another's company so much that many visits ensued. Another memorable trip was to the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden, in December 1989.

Annette was particularly dedicated to maintaining friendships, from her earliest relationships and throughout her life. Perhaps her most passionate involvement was as a dedicated archivist. In a committed undertaking, she created and self-published many detailed monographs accounting the history of family members, complete with photographs, with such expertise and finesse that they stand invaluable.

Annette is survived by her sister Mildred Thompson of Carmel, Indiana, by her children Thomas (Carol) Cech of Boulder, Colorado, Barbara (Clarence) Stahl of Grinnell, Iowa, and Richo (Mayche) Cech of Williams, Oregon, and by five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Over the past months, Annette frequently expressed how grateful she was for dear family and friends and so many memorable experiences. She expressed herself clearly and creatively until the very end, and she died in the same thoughtful and graceful manner that she lived. She leaves us a model of generosity of spirit that lives on.

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