



## Ilse Hertha Christoph

September 12, 1917 - April 26, 2015

Ilse Hertha Christoph, age 97, passed away on April 26, 2015 at Sunrise at Hunter Mill in Oakton, VA. She was born on September 12, 1917 in Breslau, Germany to the late Richard and Hertha (Neumann) Hoffman. Ilse's early years were spent in Goldberg, Silesia, where her grandfather, Max Neumann, owned a large hat factory. She moved to Hombressen, Germany in 1924 after her mother married Fritz Grebe, a Forstmeister. She remained in Hombressen until her marriage to Dr. Walter Christoph in 1939. The couple lived in Leipzig and Grimma, Germany during WWII. Ilse and her family escaped from this area in 1945 as the Russian Army was taking over what would become East Germany. The family returned to Hombressen where they remained until coming to America in 1950.

Ilse began her professional career in the late 1950's when she began teaching German for the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). She remained at FSI for nine years and during that time wrote a textbook on Basic German. She also collaborated on an additional textbook with her colleague Samuel E. Brown. In the 1960's, Ilse taught German four years at Georgetown University's Program for the Blind, after which she taught at Dunbarton College. The last twenty years of her professional career she taught German at the Central Intelligence Agency CIA. In her late eighties, Ilse wrote a memoir outlining her family's history from her birth through the 1920's and 1930's in Germany and through World War II and through her immigration to the United States. As a present for her 95th Birthday, her family published her book "My Memoirs" to

fulfill her wish that she hoped her story would serve as a reminder of what happens to families when war and violence take over a country. She is predeceased by her husband Walter and her son Lutz. Survivors include her children: Klaus Christoph (Barbara), Henning Christoph (Mara) and Ute Christoph-Hill; grandchildren: Jenny, Christoph, Eric (Teresa) and Jeffrey; great grandchildren: Casey, Erin, Ryan and Reagan. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 1:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. Interment will be held in Germany at a later date. In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Capital Caring, 2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042 in loving memory of Ilse Hertha Christoph. Condolences may be sent to: [www.piercefh.com](http://www.piercefh.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 2. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Wolfgang and I would like to express our sincere condolences at the recent passing of Mrs. Christoph. I studied German at the place of my employment in Virginia with Frau Christoph, as I knew her for many years, enrolling at her suggestion in the beginning and advanced classes simultaneously. She was the best teacher imaginable. We kept in touch through letters for years afterwards; and, shortly after our marriage, my German husband and I visited her on a trip from California to the D.C. area. Her hospitality was legendary. I have been privileged to meet Walter Christoph, whose guide for young professionals was given me; and also Ute and Lutz. Frau Christoph showed us a marvelous book of Henning's photojournalism work on voodoo. She was a strong woman with far-reaching interests and very proud of her family.

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**Michele J. Serocki Bluhm** - June 29, 2015 at 07:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ilse Hertha Christoph.



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May 01, 2015 at 05:05 PM

MS

“ Dear Barbara and Klaus, We read about Ilse in the Post and want to extend our sympathy to you both. I remember meeting her when she lived next door to you, and she had such a wonderful spirit. Thought and prayers. Mary Jo and Tom Sutton

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**Mary Jo Sutton** - May 01, 2015 at 01:47 PM

FB

“ Mrs. Christoph, as she was known to me, was charming with a great smile and warm sense of humor. I have fond memories of the times we visited and saw each other while Ute and I were roommates. I think she may also have given us advice! She shared a couple of recipes with me but my results were never the same. I'm sure it was because it was missing her special touch. She so loved her family and they so loved and cared for her. How wonderful for all those years. It was a great life well lived by a strong and terrific woman. Paul and I join you all in remembering her and celebrating her life. Our thoughts are with you.

*Paul and Frances Byers*

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**Frances and Paul Byers** - May 01, 2015 at 09:11 AM

BK

“ Dear Klaus, Barbara, & Family, Sad to hear about Ilse. Read her obit in the Post this morning and what an interesting life she had. She was an amazing woman and I'm glad that I got to meet her. She was so spry for her age and so active. She has made a difference in our world with all that she has done and experienced in her lifetime. I would like to read her memoir sometime. Our condolences to all of you.

*Barbara & Tom Kenefkae*

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**Barbara Kenefake** - April 30, 2015 at 02:12 PM

JC

“ *Dear Klaus and Barbara,  
Read of your Mom's passing today in the Post. So sorry, but boy  
what a life she had.*

*Thinking of you and yours.*

*John Cissel*

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**John Cissel** - April 30, 2015 at 07:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of  
Ilse Hertha Christoph.*



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April 29, 2015 at 10:35 AM