



# Amilda (Tolkmit) Sporleder

OCT 1, 1935 - OCT 4, 2023



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## **Amilda (Tolkmit) Sporleder**

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**A**milda (Tolkmit) Sporleder, age 88, of Rogers Arkansas, passed away peacefully on October 4 surrounded by her family's love after a courageous 8-year battle against Multiple Myeloma. Born October 1, 1935 in Pinki, Ukraine, Amilda spent her early childhood living on a farm and was responsible for tending some of the livestock, including a little lamb who followed her everywhere she went. In 1943 as Russia was expanding the war into Ukraine, the family became refugees traveling by foot, trucks, and many days in cattle box cars to German refugee camps and finally to Hammelburg, Germany. While living in Hammelburg for ten years she developed some strong friendships with her German classmates. In 1948 her father applied to emigrate to the United States. They were finally approved to start a new life arriving in New York on a transport ship on April 20, 1952. On arrival the family of 9 was given a loan of \$50 per family member – they purchased their tickets and took a train from New York to Stockton, CA. After graduating from high school she moved to the Los Angeles area to work as an Au Pair. While out listening to music and dancing with her brother, she met her first husband, Robert Bell. Married in 1955 they soon started a family and settled in Glendale, CA. In Glendale she became active in supporting her children's schools and activities including sewing over 100 choir robes for the Balboa Elementary TuneSmiths, fitting band member uniforms and sewing drill team costumes for the Glendale Youth Band, and chaperoning innumerable school field trips and Youth Band performances. Her charity work included serving as a 'captain' for the March of Dimes and American Heart Association; and supporting community organizations including the Patron's Club and the Glendale/Higashiosaka, Japan Sister City Committee which honored her dedication and organization of events surrounding the Brand Park Japanese Tea House grand opening.

Drawing off her parent's experiences during the Bolshevik Revolution and her own



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experiences living under communist and socialist governments, supporting political freedom was important to her. Amilda studied US history and government structure gaining a better understanding than many born in the US and scored 100% on her Citizenship tests becoming a US Citizen on October 9, 1959. She was active in supporting the Republican Party including serving as a precinct captain organizing 'get out and vote' activities on election days getting 99% voter turnout. Amilda was extremely talented and creative – her talents are too many to list but she would do anything she set her mind to – from building a home-based seamstress business to single handedly stuccoing her house in Glendale, to creating the architectural plans for a vacation home in Big Bear Lake, CA.

Amilda later met John Sporleder and they married in 1982 and continued her life in Glendale working as the manager of a women's figure salon and later as the number one salesperson at a high-end furniture store. Amilda and John moved to Rogers, Arkansas in 1989 settling on the shores of Beaver Lake for an early retirement. Amilda and John soon built a wide circle of friends and were active members of the Northwest Arkansas Boat Club - Beaver Lake. Amilda served as President of the Northwest German-American Club for many years. She loved to dance to any music but her favorites were the traditional German songs - before her health starting failing she never missed an opportunity to dress up in one of her dirndls to schunkeln and dance on top of the tables. Amilda and John were able to make many extended vacations to Germany visiting old classmates and visiting too many castles to count. She attended her 60th anniversary of her Lutheran confirmation in 2010. She would make friends anywhere she went - she will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched.

Amilda is lovingly remembered and survived by her husband of 41 years, John Sporleder, of Rogers, her son Donald Bell and his wife Lori of St. Charles MO, her daughter Elaine and her husband Kevin Murphey of Bella Vista, her grandchildren Brandon Bell of St Charles, MO, Dr. Gretchen Bell of Atlanta, GA, and Michael Rosen of Fayetteville, AR. Amilda also leaves behind her sisters Erna Michel and Margaret Platt, her brother Wilhelm Tolkmit, numerous nieces and nephews, many cousins living in the United States and Germany, and several family friends who loved her as



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their Second Mother.

Amilda is preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Martha Tolkmit and brothers Fredrich, Waldemar, and Rudolph Tolkmit.

A special thank you to the care team at Highlands Oncology Group, including Dr. Gregory Oakhill and Lori Barber, as well as the compassionate staff at Circle of Life Hospice. She also greatly appreciated Manuel Huchin and Jonas Baires for always being available and helping with different projects over the past 12 years.

Visitation will be Tuesday, October 10 from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home, 100 S. 28th Street, Rogers. Funeral services will be Wednesday, October 11 at 11:00 am at the Hunt Chapel at Pinnacle Memorial Gardens, 5930 S. Wallis Road, Rogers.



## Events


**Amilda (Tolkmit) Sporleder**

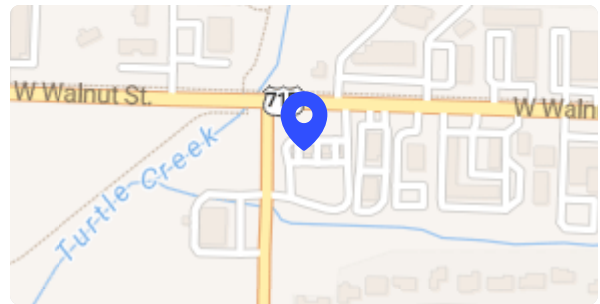
OCT 1, 1935 - OCT 4, 2023

### Visitation

 **Tuesday**, October 10, 2023


 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT


 **Nelson-Berna of Rogers**  
100 S 28th Street, Rogers AR 72758

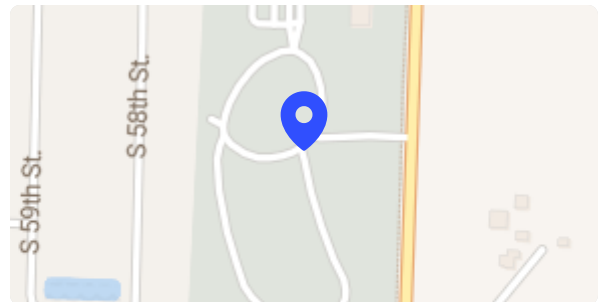


### Funeral Service


 **Wednesday**, October 11, 2023


 11:00 AM CT

 **Hunt Chapel**  
5930 South Wallis Road, Rogers AR 72768



### Cemetery Details

 **Pinnacle Memorial Gardens**  
5930 S Wallis Rd, Rogers AR 72758

 **(479) 203-7399**



# Tribute Wall

## Amilda (Tolkmit) Sporleder

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**Familie Litke** lit a candle in honor of Amilda.



December 6 at 4:33 AM



**Christel And Family** posted:

Despite the long distance, we are very close to you with our thoughts and our sadness. With sincere sympathy, in the name of Christel with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

December 2 at 9:43 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Sporleder family.



October 10 at 1:54 PM



**Judy Sporleder Davin** posted:

John...sorry to hear about Amilda. Many fond and kind memories of her. Still make her Maple French Toast she served when I visited you both in Rogers. Ah, the days in Glendale..... watching Amilda sew all the beautiful bride/bridesmaid dresses ! And the special carving on your dining room ceiling she worked on! A true artist. Then the beautiful Thanksgiving days of great cooking and huge meal. Our parents also spoke of love for Amilda. And to my sister-in-law.....will lovingly always be thinking of you.....Love as always...Judy (Sporleder) Davin

October 10 at 12:24 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Sporleder family.



October 9 at 11:12 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Charlie, Chuck And Mary Placial** sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Sporleder family.



October 9 at 7:58 AM



**Amy Lamarra** posted:

Rest in peace to my beautiful, dear Aunt Amilda. ❤️❤️❤️ Thank you for taking the time to share with me so many interesting and intriguing stories of your life in the Ukraine, Germany and the U.S.- of surviving the war and famine, of displacement and immigration, and of new beginnings and prosperity. During our phone calls- usually lasting several hours, you shared with me your life and the Tolkmit family history. I will truly miss our talks and your soft voice. However: I am grateful that you were my Papa's beautiful sister and through he- you were my Aunt. I will forever cherish the countless stories of strength and courage, of adventure and peril; of perseverance and resilience, of integrity and virtue, and of hope and grace. Aunt Amilda, these are the words that come to mind when I think of you. Thank you for your influence on my life- too bad it never crossed my mind to tell you that while you were still here. Please say hello to my Papa tonight up there, and give him a kiss on the cheek from me. Ich liebe dich. "The sun has gone to bed, and so must I. So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night. Goodbye." 🇺🇸-Amy Lamarra, granddaughter of Friedrich & Ann Tolkmit

October 8 at 4:45 PM



**Jack & Friederike Baker** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Sporleder family.



October 8 at 7:16 AM



**Roderick J. Baker** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Amilda.



October 7 at 3:55 PM



**Roderick J. Baker** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Sporleder family.



October 7 at 3:55 PM



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**Roderick J Baker** posted:

I recall as a child many times that mother (Elisabeth Reinelt Baker) would talk about her (our) Tolkmit relatives. Albert and Amilda were frequently mentioned. When I was very young I was fortunate to meet Amilda although I never met Albert. It was my understanding that Amilda was the Tolkmit family historian because she knew all of family members and family history. I met Amilda in the 1960s while visiting my Grandmother in California. Then several years later after my Grandmother's and my father's passing in the late 1970s, Mother and I traveled to Arkansas to spend a few days with Amilda and her husband at their home. It was a very heartwarming reception and visit. I was a young man in my early 20's at the time. Immediately as they came to the door to welcome us, Amilda looked at me and stated that even if she hadn't seen me with my mother she immediately would have recognized that I was of the Tolkmit bloodline. It was a very warm and welcoming greeting and I was rather surprised and very pleased to hear that, but also curious to know why. Amilda told me that like her, and my mother, and my Grandmother that I have the same very distinctive Tolkmit nose. It was the first time I had ever heard that. Upon further examination and reflection my mother and I agreed that indeed we did all have the exact same noses to include a distinctive cleft which Amilda pointed out. I have never forgotten that or how warmly Amilda welcomed us as family which had happened over 40 years ago. I see that same nose in her picture here and every time when I look in the mirror.

October 7 at 3:46 PM



**Teena Sams** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I am beyond words about my Great Aunt. She gifted me with fond stories of what it was like growing up with my great Oma & Opa. She showed me how to put on mascara and how much a smile could change someone's whole day. In one of the hardest moments of my life she told me that I was brave & she admired my strength. From memories of when I was a little she always reminded me of how special I was. She was my son Chandler's favorite person. She taught him the chicken dance and would dance with him in Oma's living room. My heart is broken but I feel better knowing she again is in heaven with Oma, Opa, my grandpa Fred and her brothers. I can bet she didn't walk into heaven. She danced through those heavenly gates! Rest Peacefully sweet angel.



October 6 at 10:33 PM



**Nancy And Kim Kerry Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Amilda.



October 6 at 3:40 PM



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**Nancy And Kim Kerry Family** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Sporleder family.

October 6 at 3:40 PM





**Media**

**Amilda (Tolkmit) Sporleder**

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Teena Sams shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 6 at 10:33 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Amilda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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