

El-Zawahry, Grace Ellen Ransdell 1913 - 2004

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Mrs. Grace Ellen (Ransdell) El-Zawahry, 91, of Chillicothe, passed away to Heaven, peacefully on Monday evening, March 15, 2004, in Adena Regional Medical Center. She was born Jan. 26, 1913, in Cynthiana, KY, to the late Forrest Shelton and Ella Asbury (Turner) Ransdell.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 49 years, Dr. Moneim El-Zawahry; a son, Sabry and his wife, Nabila Hammoud El-Zawahry and grandchildren, Laila, Yaseen and Nada-Grace El-Zawahry. Also surviving are nieces and nephews and their families, Cedric Earl Ransdell, San Diego, CA, Hilda Johnson, Chillicothe, Jenna Lou Carnes, Greenfield, OH, Gloria Kay Allen, Maumee, OH, Lewis Ransdell, Chattanooga, TN, Dr. William Ickinger, Athens, OH, Judge John Tapp, Seattle, WA, David Lee Mossbarger, Frankfort, OH, Diane Hawley, Delaware, OH, Mike Ransdell, Baltimore, MD, Dr. Lisa Ransdell, Denver, CO and Dr. Kamal El-Zawahry, Mrs. Zeinab El-Zawahry, Dr. Joan El-Zawahry, Dr. Tamman El-Zawahry and Dr. Tarek El-Zawahry, all of Panama City, FL, and by other members of the El-Zawahry family in Egypt. Also surviving are a brother-in-law, Dane Mossbarger, Frankfort, OH, and a sister-in-law, Mabel Ransdell, Chillicothe. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Earl, Paul, Elwood, Lewis and Arthur Ransdell; sisters, Susan Ransdell Ickinger, Lillie Ransdell Tapp and Lena Ransdell Mossbarger.

Grace was a graduate of South Salem High School, White Cross Hospital School of Nursing, earned her BS in Nursing Education from The Ohio State University and her MS in Pediatric and Public Health Nursing from Western Reserve University. She did additional post-graduate studies at Bellevue Hospital, New York, NY, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD and University Hospital, Seattle, WA.

She worked as a supervisor nurse in pediatric nursing in White Cross Hospital and Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH, in Los Angeles, CA, and at Harborview Hospital, Seattle, WA. She was a child health nursing consultant at the Ohio Department of Health, where she developed the premature program for the State. She was recruited by the U.S. Department of State, as a nursing advisor and educator in Maternal and Child Health at a nurse midwifery school in Samawah, Iraq and later at a rural training and demonstration center in Cairo, Egypt, where she met her husband. In 1956, she worked in premature nursing at the University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC, and later with the Johns Hopkins University Cerebral Palsy and Brain Damage Research Project. Grace was recruited by the World Health Organization as a WHO Professor of Pediatric and Public Health Nursing for the Faculty of Nursing, Alexandria University, Egypt. This was the first university level education in nursing for countries of the Middle East. Later, she became Dean of Faculty. In the sixties, Grace followed the path of her husband in his WHO assignments in Rangoon, Burma, New Delhi, India, Jakarta, Indonesia, Geneva, Switzerland and New York, NY. In these countries, she volunteered in support of nursing education and developing nursing leadership. In recognition of her contributions, she received several honors and awards from organizations and universities in the USA and elsewhere.

Grace traveled extensively in many countries in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Far East, where she established life-lasting friendships. She was actively involved in American and UN women's clubs and was a member of the American Nursing Association, the Ohio Nursing Association and the White Cross/Riverside Nursing Association. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Chillicothe and was very active in church and circle activities.

She loved classical music, painting and was gifted with a beautiful soprano voice. As a nursing student at White Cross, she sang with her sister, Susan in several churches throughout Ohio to raise funds for their nursing school.

She has been a joyful inspiration throughout her life to her patients and their families, and to her co-workers and friends for her integrity and loyalty. She lived her life to the fullest and was courageous with great compassion, thoughtfulness and kindness to everyone, especially the weak and underprivileged. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends across the globe and will be blessed in Heaven for her faith and good deeds.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday in Fawcett Oliver Glass and Palmer Funeral Home, with Rev. Tad Grover officiating. Burial will follow in Greenfield Cemetery, Greenfield, OH. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday