



Lilla Theodora Eakins

November 6, 1922 - November 14, 2018

Eakins, Lilla T. nee Pappas 96, returned to her heavenly home on November 14, 2018 after a blessed and rewarding life. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported her in her struggle and ultimately led her back to her Heavenly Father. Lilla was preceded in death by husband, Lyle; son, Steven; parents Paraskeve and Theodore; sister, Mary and brother, John. Lilla was immersed in the Christian community that would be her lifelong support from an early age attending St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Lilla was blessed in marriage to Lyle on December 30, 1951. Lilla lived 67 yrs in St. Louis Park where she raised her four sons with grit and determination, a testament to her patience. Lilla graduated from West High in Minneapolis and Macalester College in 1944 with a degree in English. Lilla was an educator at heart. Her immigrant mother was her first pupil. Instructing her in the English language began her teaching career that would span 45 years. Thousands of students would follow in Portland, OR, Comfrey, Waseca, U High, Good Shepherd in Golden Valley, St. Margaret's Academy and Benilde retiring at the age of 67. Often known as the "Queen of Mythology" she will always be remembered as a very caring teacher by her students and peers. Lilla is survived by her sons, Thomas (Megan), David and James (Brenda), 6 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Visitation will be Monday, November 19th, 5-7 pm at Washburn- McReavy Edina Chapel. Funeral services will be Tuesday, November 20th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis at 11

a.m. with interment at Lakewood Cemetery. Luncheon to follow at the Church.
The family gratefully appreciates donations to Abria or the Salvation Army.
Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

“ *Lilla T. (Pappas) Eakins funeral sermon Nov 20, 2018 St .Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church*

Thank you to you all for coming out to pray for Lilla. Lilla, as you may know, dedicated her life to the bringing up of children. She brought up her four boys, which I am sure, in itself, was a challenge and a great work of love. But it didn’t end there. She also poured out her dedication to helping children through her teaching career. As an English teacher, she opened up worlds to children, teaching them the value of great literature. I found it interesting and significant that in an online post about her obituary, one former student commented on how Lilla helped her appreciate Charles Dickens’ novel, A Tale of Two Cities...She was also a Sunday School teacher for many years, again, preparing children in the most important thing in life, a life of Faith and preparation for the life to come.

Lila also served, as you may know, as a boy Scouts’ Den Mother. Remembering her as a Den Mother really sums up her constant role as a loving person, caring for, guiding, and teaching children. Perhaps the Boy Scout Motto...can tell us a lot about Lilla. ¿Do you remember the motto for Boy Scouts? “Always Be Prepared!” ... ¿Always be prepared for what? The founder of the Boy Scouts wrote in a scouting handbook that it means that “you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.” Surely Lilla lived this motto. She more than did her duty to her children and students. But her state of readiness is more than doing her duty as a mother, teacher, or Den Mother. Every time I visited Lila before her stroke, she was always so pleased to take the time to pray with me and to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Why? Because she knew the importance of always be prepared. Even when she was becoming forgetful, she never forgot the importance of always be prepared. She was prepared in mind—with her willingness to pray, and in body—by receiving the Holy Body and Blood of Christ with joy.

I also want to point out something noteworthy about her teaching career: she gave many students an appreciation of Charles Dicken’s A Tale of Two Cities. A Tale of Two Cities isn’t really, so

much about the French Revolution. Really, the French Revolution is just a backdrop for a much larger theme. A theme that didn't just affect France. A theme that didn't just affect modern Europe. A theme that didn't just affect early 19th century world history. This is a theme that affects all of us, today, tomorrow, and for all eternity. ¿What am I talking about? I am talking about the theme...of the Resurrection. The theme of Christ's Resurrection, and His promise of our Resurrection. The theme of the Resurrection reverberates throughout A Tale of Two Cities . Towards the end of the novel, one characters—Mr. Carton, who was rather a bad character at first and didn't live in a way prepared for the life to come—had a change of heart... for the good. He gave his very one life so another may live. He took the place of his friend in prison and was executed in his friend's place during the bloody French Revolution. But before the end, Mr. Carton again and again repeated to himself Christ's words: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Over and over again, he repeated "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." The hope of the resurrection built up in his heart that his sacrifice will be all worth it. This hope is what Lilla taught her students, both in English class and in Sunday School. It is in this hope, the hope of the Resurrection, that we are gathered here. It is in this hope , the hope of the Resurrection that we can deal with loss. Holding fast to this hope, may we, too, follow Lilla's example, and "Always be prepared." Amen.

fr. Jason Houck - November 20, 2018 at 01:30 PM

DA

“ *Lilla could recite things long forgotten and was whipsmart. Always with a smile she moved forward through life with a grace and strength that I envied. I hope that I am lucky enough to one day join my honorary yaya for a class of water aerobics in heaven.* ”

Danelle - November 19, 2018 at 08:00 PM