

Biography of Irene Powell

Irene Powell, known for her wit, wisdom, humility and charm, having been *Programmed to Progress*, has Progressed. She served humanity and God for over 99 years and has received for herself, death as this life's final gift. With love we say "There she goes," trusting she will be welcomed with, "Here she comes."

Born Irene Mathis on September 8th, 1912, she was the only daughter of William Mathis and Theresa Stratman Mathis in Rosedale, Kansas. Their family moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 1920 where Irene grew to love learning; beyond compulsory schooling she attended Junior College and St. Luke's School of Nursing in Kansas City. Irene gathered further experience with Post Graduate studies at St. Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital in Washington DC. Irene spent time as a private duty nurse in KC and Ward Supervisor and teacher at Sheppard Enoch Pratt Psychiatric Hospital in Towson, Maryland. She was back working at St. Luke's as Assistant Superintendent of Nurses at the time of her marriage.

Irene and Ross Jacobs Powell were married October 10th 1937. Irene and Ross reared their three boys, Jerry Ross, Bruce Douglas and Rex Mathis in Clinton, Missouri after having lived in a number of small towns working to build Dr. Powell's medical practice.

Irene was involved in countless civic, school and church activities throughout the years. Den Mother for her boys' Cub Scout Den - all three went on to become Eagle Scouts, as did L. Ross, grandson. A Life Member of MO and National PTA, Irene participated on every level, held several Offices and Chairmanships, assisted in compiling a booklet on Civil Defense and authored a book on planning

Conferences for Children in Trouble after having planned and conducted a regional USA conference with the Council of Juvenile Court Judges concerning Youth in Trouble.

Irene was a Sunday School Teacher at Clinton United Methodist Church for many years, serving various grade levels - high school, college and adults. Irene served on an assortment of committees and commissions, and was the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Official Board. She was also Chairman of the Committee to Compile History of the Church up to 1994.

Equally notable, in play with her family and friends, Irene was an accomplished piggy-back-ride-giver to her three sons, amateur marionettist and Eskimo Dancer. Irene repeatedly defeated L. Ross in early arm-wrestling matches and footraces. Irene and Devin served three years as National Pancake Representatives, planning and executing Shrove Tuesday Bashes from 2009 - 2011. In 2011 Irene and Jerry consulted closely with Cardinal's management and were able to help orchestrate another World Series victory.

General interests were many and wide-ranging; rocks, shells, stamps, embroidery, genealogy, Spiritualism, history and travel. She and Dr. Powell traveled extensively in the US plus trips to Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia, South America, Australia and the South Sea Islands.

Irene's farewell committee includes sons Jerry and Rex, daughter Lynn Newberry Powell, grandchildren, Ross, Anne Lightner Powell, and Devin, as well as countless friends, nieces, nephews and cousins. Irene's welcome committee includes husband Dr. R.J. Powell, son, Douglas and infant grandson Aaron Patrick and even more numerous friends and relatives.