



Paula A. Spence

February 16, 1932 - September 24, 2020

Paula A. Spence born February 16, 1932 in Pomeroy, Ohio. She died peacefully on September 24th in her sleep. She is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Pete. Paula is survived by her son Brad and grandson Andrew. She had numerous friends including Pat Brand who loved her dearly. Paula began her career in politics and was President and Owner of Spence and Associates from 1968-1980. She then joined forces with Gene Hameroff and David Milenthal and became the President of Hameroff/Milenthal/Spence until she retired in 1998.

She was a trailblazer for women and gave back to the Columbus community she loved. Her accomplishments include being the second woman chairwoman for the United Way of Central Ohio. She was credited with personally meeting every Executive Director of the beneficiary agencies. Karen Schwarzwalder who was then Executive Director of the YWCA summarized her legacy, "Your open and inviting leadership style provided a point of access for agencies and the community to the United Way Board. You gave great support to agencies (our own agency is just one example). You are a wonderful role model for all women."

She also served on the Boards for the YWCA, what is now Nationwide Children's Hospital, Catholic Social Services, Goodwill Rehabilitation Center, The Hannah Neil Foundation, Starr Commonwealth Schools, The Mount Carmel Foundation, The League Against Child Abuse and The Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce (she was the only woman on the board).

She also served as chairwoman of Operation Feed, the Red Ribbon Campaign, the Neighborhood Business Roundtable, and the Columbus Public Schools Communications Task Force.

Spence's most pronounced fingerprint on the city, perhaps, stands on the Scioto Peninsula at the site of the former Central High School. A COSI board member from 1990 to 2002, Spence led the building, development and financial resources board, shepherding the effort to raise \$45 million in private donations in the 1990s to move the science museum from Memorial Hall to its current home across the Scioto River on West Broad Street.

She was a director of Society Bank, Nationwide Insurance Investing Foundation, Franklin University, Council for Ethics in Economics and the Columbus/Franklin County News Bureau.

Her awards were also numerous including The Katherine S. LeVeque Award for Business/Industry for the inaugural YWCA Women of Achievement. The Columbus Award, which is the highest recognition given by the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

The first recipient of the Columbus Distinguished Communicator Award from the Columbus Chapter of Women in Communications. The Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame Award from Junior Achievement. The Christopher Columbus Award, the highest recognition given by the City of Columbus for outstanding service to the quality of life in the City. Columbus Greats We Love Award honoring people who have worked to make Columbus great. She was also the first woman to appear on the cover of Ohio Business Magazine. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. She was the first woman to win Ohio Businesswoman of the Year.

Her commitment is an inspiration to all of us, perhaps she summarized her philosophy best, "It is important for all of us to become active in our communities. We have an obligation to give something back for all the community gives to us. Everyone benefits, including business, when we improve the quality of life in our community."

To continue Paula's commitment to children and education, contributions can be made in her name to COSI, 333 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

Tribute Wall



“ *Paula A. Spence*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Your mom was my mom's neighbor at Stone Oak and she was very sweet looking after my mom and her cat We spoke many times on the phone and in person at Stone Oak. I wish I would have known how accomplished she was as I read her obituary in awe. What a woman! Really!!! I left a message on her cell phone today as I was unaware of what transpired. How proud of her you must be. Our condolences and heartfelt sympathy.
Nancy McCormick and Brett Esquivel*

Brett Esquivel - November 01, 2020 at 05:08 PM



“ *Brad,*

We were so sorry to hear of Paula's passing. We looked forward to our dinners out with your mom (and your dad, when he was still living). She was always so engaged and up-to-date with the latest news, and that made her a lively dinner partner! We looked forward to catching up on all of Andrew's activities and marveling at what a devoted grandmother Paula was. With such a small family, we feel lucky to have Pete and Paula among our relatives, especially now during Covid when family seems more important than ever. Kathie and Fred have missed them both, and we will too. Please extend our condolences to Andrew.

David and Barbara Hyre

David Hyre - October 31, 2020 at 12:49 PM

JB

“ Brad, I'm so deeply sorry to read of your mother's passing. I was on this site for another friend's family member and happened to see her obituary. I truly enjoyed the time we spent with your parents and have fond memories from all those years ago. Your mom's chicken breasts cooked in the mushroom soup is still one of my favorite dishes. May the wonderful memories get you through this dark time. Hugs, my old friend.

Jennifer (Merkel) Buhn

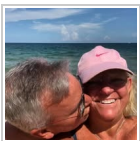
Jennifer Buhn - October 05, 2020 at 08:44 AM

JM

“ My deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother. Paula was a dear friend and mentor. I was sad to learn of her passing. Peace to all of your family.

Judy Mastrine (Louisville, Colorado), formerly of Hilliard

Judy Mastrine - October 04, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ Brad,
I'm so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. She always called and asked about my mom and even visited her. She had a beautiful, kind heart (first and foremost) and taught young women that they had a voice and place in the work world. I know your son will miss their time together ❤️ She loved him so much.

Jenni Howell - October 03, 2020 at 09:30 AM

DS

“ So sad to hear of Paula’s passing. My Mom (Bonnie Eichinger Kelly) and Paula started first grade together in Pomeroy and had a lifelong friendship. Paula and Joann traveled to Pomeroy in recent years and joined my Mom and the 3 of them spent a great day reminiscing and catching up with each other. Sadly that was their last visit. Sincere sympathy to Paula’s family and many friends. She certainly was an amazing and accomplished woman.

Darla Kelly Staats - October 02, 2020 at 11:21 PM

DB

“ So sorry to hear of Paula's passing. Paula will always be remembered as our Trailblazer here in Little Turtle. We had the pleasure of living as neighbors and knowing both Pete and Paula as well as serving with them on our Little Turtle Civic Association. Our prayers and heart felt sympathy goes out to the friends & family. Memories of all she & Pete did here in the community is strongly evident and lives on with us today! Rest in peace dear lady! Mission accomplished beautifully!

God Bless you all,
Jerry & Debbie Bowman, Trustee
The Little Turtle Civic Association, inc.

Debbie Bowman - September 28, 2020 at 12:52 PM

NS

“ Dear Brad and Family,

I was sorry to read about your mother's passing. She was a friend of our family for many years as she began her career at Nicholas Popa and Associates in the 1960's. She had a wonderful career and was well respected in the community. I hope that your loving memories of her and those of her friends, will with bring you consolation. She will be remembered in my prayers.
Nancy Popa Sneed



Nancy P. Sneed - September 27, 2020 at 02:05 PM

MS

“ *Mindi And Andrew Spence lit a candle in memory of Paula A. Spence*



Mindi and Andrew Spence - September 27, 2020 at 05:16 AM

BQ

“ *Paula was a ray of sunshine regardless of any storm. Brad, we have many memories of her and your dad, Pete which we cannot neglect to mention. They were a beautiful connection and a joy to be with. Most of our memories are with her when they still lived in Ohio and before we all moved away to other climes and adventures. She will always remain in our hearts. We pray that Our Father receives her soul in His very brightest light.*

*Time's Whisper
Time approaches,
passes,
and patiently,
waits in the future;
To touch us once again.
And by its touching,
We realize how much,
Love and friendship,
Are a part of our lives,*

*Touched in time by
Joys and laughter,
Sorrows and pain,
In companionship
and loneliness,
We go
With time's whisper
On our cheek
REQ '95*

Bob & Phyllis Quelette - September 26, 2020 at 02:46 PM

SB

“ *Paula was a great woman and so was her heart. She will be greatly missed. Our prayers go out to her family at this time of sorrow. May God Bless You. Les & Sharon*

Sharon Broock - September 26, 2020 at 02:32 PM