



Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)

July 13, 1938 - November 23, 2023

Heidi Else Hamrick passed peacefully on November 23, 2023 in Austin, Texas at the age of 85 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Heidi was preceded in death by her husband, James Hamrick. She is survived by her daughter, Carrie Hamrick, and son-in-law Tom Swatlowksi, of Georgetown Texas, son, Jim Hamrick, daughter-in-law Meredith Hamrick and grandchildren Riley and Carley Hamrick of Austin, Texas.

Heidi was born on the precipice of World War II in Neckarau, Germany, the second of two children born to Jakob and Elsa Engel. Heidi's formative years were marked by the challenges of wartime, shaping her into a woman of resilience, strength and character. From the beginning Heidi was inquisitive and had a love for travel and adventure.

As a young woman Heidi was interested in improving her English-speaking skills and attended a USO function with a friend looking to do the same. There, at Tomkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany, she met her future husband, James E. Hamrick who was on tour with the U.S. Army.

James soon proposed and Heidi set sail from Bremerhaven, Germany, bound for New York. This voyage marked the beginning of the life Heidi and James would share and they married on July 7, 1965 in South Carolina.

The couple started a family and eventually settled and raised their children in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Heidi worked as a Medical Librarian at Mary Washington Hospital. Immersed in a world of books and reading, she thrived in assisting medical staff by delving into the intricacies of research which provided more informed care for patients.

Beyond work duties and being a devout wife and mother, Heidi cherished connecting with her German relatives overseas, visiting friends, walks in nature, reading nonfiction, being part of the German Club of Northern Virginia, and later in life, becoming an active member of the Northern Virginia Ski Club.

Following the loss of her husband to ALS in 1991, Heidi fulfilled her lifelong dream of exploring the world. She relocated to Florida, strategically positioning herself near her chosen hub for embarking on global adventures. Heidi traveled to some of the most remote corners of the earth, turning her dreams into a reality as she traversed diverse landscapes and cultures. A true adventurer at heart, Heidi's passion for travel was a testament to her curiosity and love for new places and experiences. Her tales of exploration, whether wandering through historic streets, climbing volcanoes or immersing herself in the beauty of nature, were woven into the fabric of gatherings with family and friends, creating lasting cherished memories. Those memories will forever reside in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in her homeland - Germany. Please share any comments, stories or pictures here that reflect the beauty of Heidi's life and the impact she had on us. Heidi's journey on this earth has ended, but her spirit soars on.

Tribute Wall

EG

“ My family always enjoyed Heidi’s visit when she was in town. She always was interested in how my family was doing and what they were up to. Heidi felt like extended family and not just our friend’s mom.
I personally always admired her drive to travel and explore and do it solo and in her own way. No beaten paths for her. We will always remember and appreciate the time we got to spend with her.

Erick Gerdeman - December 29, 2023 at 03:07 PM

HL

“ I cannot imagine Heidi not visiting us in Germany, us not visiting her in the US, and not traveling together anymore. She always did so much for me. When I was 15, she showed me Virginia and New York, which deeply influenced me. Through the years, she hosted me several times in Florida, and she came with my mother to Hamburg, Brussels, and Brunswick while we were living there. Heidi is by far the most traveled person I know, having been to Afghanistan, Kenya, and Antarctica, to name a few highlights. She had many interests, and her stories inspired me to travel. I am thankful for our shared moments, especially when she met our newborn daughter during her last stay.

We will miss her.

Holger, Natasha & Lilia - December 08, 2023 at 03:20 PM



I will miss Heidi so very much. I miss our phone call and texts and her always being there for me . I miss our time together at local plays . She was amazing always. Till we meet again Heidi. Love you always and forever 💕🙏

Ann Potter - December 13, 2023 at 06:58 PM

EG

“ Erika GOYZUETA lit a candle in memory of Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)



Erika GOYZUETA - December 08, 2023 at 09:23 AM

LF

“ *Lindsey & Family lit a candle in memory of Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)*



Lindsey & Family - December 07, 2023 at 08:06 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss Jim and Carrie. Your mother was a very adventurous women and loved traveling and the outdoors. Which I know a lot of the being outdoors was passed down to you Jim. Because you have passed a lot of that love for the outdoors to me. Which I will always cherish the conversations about the outdoors with her and learning the love for the outdoors that she gave you Jim.*

Crystal Greene - December 07, 2023 at 08:02 PM

LJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lizette and Joe - December 07, 2023 at 07:32 PM

EG

“ *I will always remember her warm smile and the interesting conversations. She was a an amazing person. 🙏*

Eric Greene - December 07, 2023 at 06:23 PM

AB

“ *Carrie, Jim and all who loved this amazing lady, my condolences. She truly was a wonderful person that I will always remember fondly. Many cherished memories with Hamricks when I was a kiddo. I am so sorry for your loss. Big hugs to everyone.*

Adrienne Bryant - December 07, 2023 at 01:54 PM

BR

“ Brigitte Roder lit a candle in memory of Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)



Brigitte Roder - December 07, 2023 at 05:55 AM

CH

“ Carrie Hamrick lit a candle in memory of Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)



Carrie Hamrick - December 06, 2023 at 09:17 PM

AO

“ I am so, so sorry for the loss your precious mom. I always enjoyed visiting your house as a kid, because I got to see what a real Mom was like. She always made sure you and Carrie had everything you needed. She made sure you were fed, got exercise, played the piano beautifully, and understood responsibility. She was a superior role model. You guys invited us for hot cocoa after playing in the snow, and your mom shared her recipe for that delicious cocoa with me; and I still make it that way to this day! You certainly won the mom lottery. Now, she is free from the pain and enjoying more adventures on the other side. ❤️🙏

Allison Oakley - December 06, 2023 at 08:57 PM

LK

My brother Bill and I first met Heidi on a Windjammer cruise. She shared the love for adventure at sea just as we did. We stayed in touch and enjoyed several more Caribbean cruises with her. Heidi was such fun to travel with. She was just soaking up knowledge about the area and had perfect recall of every trip. Heidi met us in Cancun one summer. We drove around the entire Yucatan Peninsula. What an adventure. Heidi found out about a freighter out of Tahiti that carried passengers to deliver goods to very small islands. This was the best adventure of all. Heidi added so much adventure, knowledge and love to our lives. I miss you Heidi 🥺

Linda Knickrehm - December 07, 2023 at 11:38 AM

SB

“ Dearest Jim, My heart is very sad you lost your beloved Mom. You have been an incredibly, loving Son throughout all that I have known you. Your genuine love and care when she first was struck with Cancer was truly a pure love only a son like you would handle. Heidi handled her diagnosis like a genuine champion, and boy she did a great job! I am so proud of her. She didn't want to leave this World for the extreme love she had for her family. She is at peace now and I hope and pray, you and her beloved Meredith and her wonderful grandchildren, and ours Riley and Carley will always love and remember the beautiful love she had for you all. God Bless my precious Son-in-Law. I adore you and am so very sorry for losing your Mom. Steph

Stephanie Greene Benson - December 06, 2023 at 07:47 PM

DH

“ Sorry for your loss. My Mother was also a geboren Heidi Engel. The last time I saw Heidi she was getting ready to go to the airport off on an adventure.



Diane Husk - December 06, 2023 at 05:38 PM

JH

“ Jim Hamrick lit a candle in memory of Heidi Else Hamrick (Engel)



Jim Hamrick - December 06, 2023 at 10:09 AM