

Della Virginia May Strieter  
Obituary

Strieter, Della Virginia May passed away peacefully on Friday, April 27, 2012 in her home at Meramec Bluffs Retirement Community at the age of 93. She was the only child of the late Emanuel and Mary (née: Lucht) Eschelbach of Chelsea, Michigan.

Della is survived by her beloved husband of 71 1/2 years, Frederick Fritz Strieter, and her loving daughter, Bonnie Sue Strieter.

Della was an avid bridge player and loved to travel. Her deepest passion, though, was championing for all animals great and small.

Services: As Della wished, she was cremated. There will be a Memorial Service on Friday, May 25, 2012 at 2:00 PM at Meramec Bluffs Retirement Community Chapel, 1 Meramec Bluffs Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021. In honor of Della, donations may be made to Five Acres Animal Shelter, 1099 Pralle Lane, St. Charles, MO 63303.



Source: St. Louis Post Dispatch, May 6-13, 2012

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Road Tested: The Traveling Strieters are still going after 71 years and eight laps around the world

How do you know if your marriage is built to last? Try traveling together. Meramec Bluffs residents Fritz and Della Strieter have been around the world together eight times, and they recently celebrated their 71st anniversary together.

“When we got married, we didn’t have two nickels to rub together,” Della says. “He always said, ‘I’ll make it up to you someday.’ And when we retired, that’s just what he did.” He started out taking her on driving trips all over the United States, and when one country turned out to be too small for them, they started branching out.

“We took cruise ships all over,” says Fritz, “from the Arctic to the Antarctic, around the world to the east until we got to the West Coast, then west until we got to the East Coast. We went almost everywhere a ship could go.”

For some couples, that much time together in a car or a stateroom might put a strain on a relationship. But Fritz and Della have a lot of practice at being together.

“We met at Sunday school when he was three and a half and I was four,” she says. “We were from the same town. We were in school together, first grade through senior year.”

“We don’t know anything but how to live together,” Fritz says with a grin.

Nowadays, health problems prevent the Strieters from doing much traveling, but they’re always glad to share their experiences with their neighbors. And if you see one of them in the halls at Meramec Bluffs, the other can’t be far behind. “I’m not a golfer, I’m not a fisherman,” says Fritz. “Everything we’ve ever done, we’ve done together.”



For younger couples, the Strieters have some words of advice on how to travel well together. “Wherever you go, make that place your home,” says Della. “It’s easy to get stressed out otherwise. And plan ahead – think ahead of time what you’re going to do at each port. It prevents arguments later on.”

Of course, both of the Strieters suggest honesty and flexibility with your spouse. After all, even at the best of times, traveling can be hard on couples. And if fights happen? “Do it my way,” Della laughs.

Fritz smirks and nods quietly. After 71 years, he’s pretty sure he’s not getting the last word on this one.

Source: Lutheran Senior Services website, September 14, 2012