

In Memoriam
Dr. Alberta Dee Hill
October 25, 1918 – March 18, 2017



Dr. Alberta Dee Hill passed away March 18th, 2017 at her home in Meridian, Idaho, after a brief illness, with family at her side. Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 pm, Friday, March 31st at The Potter Funeral Chapel, 228 E Main St. Emmett, Idaho. Burial will follow in the Emmett Cemetery. There will be a Memorial and Celebration of her life at 1:00 pm, Saturday, April 8th at The United Church of Moscow, 123 West 1st Street, Moscow, Idaho.

Alberta was born October 25th, 1918 to Lora Mackie Hill and John Albert Hill in Payette, Idaho. Her parents homesteaded in Brogan, Oregon where Alberta lived her preschool years. She treasured her early memories of that time. The family Move to the Bramwell, southwest of Emmett, in 1924 where she started school. Alberta loved school; she was a good student, but also shared many stories of grade school pranks and antics. By the age of 12 years, she had the job of collecting and writing all of the Bramwell Community News for the Messenger Index.

Alberta was focused on academics, but also involved in school activities and 4-H. She sewed clothing and had dairy cattle projects. She participated in 4-H activities such as cattle shows and judging teams and was frequently the only girl. She graduated from Emmett High School in 1935.

Alberta graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education in 1939. She taught high school Home Economics and Adult Education in both Hailey and Preston, Idaho. She also coached soft ball with her instruction manual in hand.

In April of 1943 Alberta Joined the Women's Army Corp and was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia where she served until January of 1946.

Alberta received her Masters of Art in Education from Columbia University in New York. She completed her Doctorate in Education from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She was an Assistant Professor of Home Economics Education, teaching at the University of North Dakota, the University of Connecticut, Idaho State University, and the University of Illinois from 1947 until 1959. She was Program Specialist, Vocational Division, for the US office of Education in Washington D.C. from 1959 until 1965. Alberta then served as Department Head of the School of Home Economics at Iowa State University until 1969 when she moved back to the Northwest and joined the faculty of Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, becoming Dean of the College of Home Economics in 1975.



Before and after retirement from WSU, Alberta was Senior Technical Advisor for USAID/WSU Eastern Island Project in Indonesia. She continued to work as a consultant through The International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) for the Ministry of Education and Culture for Sir Arthur Lewis College in St Lucia, West Indies, until 1995. Alberta remained very involved with her profession well into her 90's, and remained on the executive board of the International Home Economics Services (IHES) until she moved to Emeritus status at the age of 96.

Alberta enjoyed extensive international travel throughout her life. She began her travel adventures prior to joining the US Office of Education, which included a world tour of Europe, India, Pakistan, China and Thailand. She travelled to International meetings in Europe, Scandinavia, and Asia for many years. Alberta travelled to New Zealand and to the Australian outback for her 70th Birthday. Her last International trip was to Switzerland and Latvia in her 90th year.

Alberta was very active in multiple State, Regional, National, and International Professional Organizations for 70 years. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the AHEA/AAFCS in 1993. Alberta was also an active Alumna of the University Idaho receiving the Distinguished Alumna Award from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences in 1977.



Alberta was recipient of The University of Idaho Hall of Fame Award in 1988. In 1995 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Idaho in recognition of her national and international leadership in higher education.

Alberta gave the same degree of professionalism and energy to The United Church of Moscow, The WSU Common Ministry, The University of Idaho Institute of Christian Education, The Area Agency on Aging, and The International Women's Network advisory Council. She also volunteered at the Pullman Regional Hospital until well into her 90s.

Alberta was a leader in the science and development of education to strengthen families throughout the world, but her greatest achievements and her most enduring legacy is in the hearts and minds of dear friends and those lucky few who knew her as Aunt Berdie. Alberta is survived by nieces and nephews, 37 great nieces and nephews, and many great grand nieces and nephews, as well as all of the children of friends that knew her as "Aunt Berdie."

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to one or more of the following:

- The Alberta D. Hill Scholarship Endowment, University of Idaho Foundation, 875 Perimeter Dr. MS 443147 Moscow, Idaho 83844-3147
- The Alberta Hill Academic Excellence Award Endowment, attention Julia Christian Washington State University, College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS), PO Box 646228 Pullman, WA 99164-6228.
- The International Home Economics Service Board, Janell Smith, IHES Treasurer, 5300 E. Grant St., Orlando, FL 32812.