



Hertha Goethert

b. 26 February 1913
Hannover, Germany

† 7 January 2008
Manchester, Tennessee

Hella Lacy, Winfried Goethert, Wolfhart Goethert, Reinhard Goethert

Hertha Goethert

February 26, 1913 - January 7, 2008

Hertha Goethert, 94, died peacefully at her home in Manchester on January 7. Graveside services were conducted Thursday, January 10, 2008 at Manchester City Cemetery with Pastor A. Richard Smith officiating. She was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Dr. B. H. Goethert. She is survived by one daughter, Hella Lacy of Linwood, NJ, and three sons, Winfried Goethert of Tullahoma, Wolfhart Goethert of Pittsburgh, PA, and Reinhard Goethert of Concord, MA, and their spouses. She was grandmother to 10 and great-grandmother to 13.

Mrs. Goethert's life was highly eventful. Born in Hannover, Germany, in 1935 she married Bernhard Hermann Goethert, a young doctor of aeronautical engineering, native of the same city. The couple made their home in Bohnsdorf, a suburb of Berlin, but at the height of World War II, she and her children fled for safety to Diemarden, an ancestral farming village. In 1947, the family emigrated to Dayton, Ohio and Wright-Patterson Field. They moved to Manchester in 1953, when Dr. Goethert was chief of the propulsion wind tunnel at Arnold Center. Later he founded the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

Hertha Goethert maintained her residence in Tennessee for 56 years, but with interludes elsewhere. From 1964 to 1966 she lived in Alexandria, Virginia, when her husband was Chief Scientist of the Air Force Systems Command at Andrews Air Force Base. Later the couple lived in Aachen, West Germany, where he was an aeronautical professor at the University of Aachen. They traveled widely in western Europe, India, China, and Japan, as well as making frequent visits to their children and grandchildren.

In her public identity, Hertha Goethert was best known as the wife of a scientist prominent not only in the United States but also in Europe. Her children and friends have another view. They know Bernhard Goethert as the lucky husband of a beautiful, vivacious, deeply humane woman who enriched the lives of everyone who knew her.

Memorials may be made in her name to the 'Hands-On Science Center', 101 Mitchell Blvd, Tullahoma, Tennessee 37388 .
