



Esther Louise Bach

September 9, 1928 - May 20, 2025

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Esther Bach passed away peacefully on May 20, 2025, at the age of 96, surrounded by the love of her family. Known for her strength, grace, and unwavering devotion to those she loved, Esther was truly the life of every gathering—always ready with a smile, a dance, and something delicious from her treasured collection of recipes.

Born in Fresno's "Rooshan Town," a close-knit community of Volga German immigrants, Esther came into the world on September 9, 1928, the daughter of Henry H. and Anna Schneider. Her early life was shaped by the strength and perseverance of her family, who had fled their village of Stahl on the Volga River in 1921 after surviving the hardships of the Russian Revolution and World War I. After resettling in Fresno, Esther graduated from Edison High School in 1946, already known for her wit, warmth, and spirited nature.

Esther loved deeply and lived fully. She was a devoted wife who shared her life with her beloved husband Gerald Bach, with whom she was an active member of the German social club. Esther was a devoted homemaker whose warmth filled every room and whose kitchen was the heart of the home. She was an even more passionate matriarch, living for her children and

grandchildren, each of whom carries a piece of her enduring legacy.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings Anna Karle, Emma Bowen, George Schneider, and Donald Schneider; husbands Art Parnagian and Gerald Bach Sr.; sons Donald Helmuth and Mark Helmuth; and grandson Scott Rice.

She is survived by her loving son Stephen Helmuth (Jeff Cassano), devoted daughter Lori Parnagian, granddaughters Vanessa Helmuth and Hannah Shigley, grandson Zak Snow (Kristine), and eight cherished great-grandchildren. Her Rolodex of recipes—and the memories they bring—will continue to nourish her family for generations to come.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the compassionate staff at St. Mary's Hospice Services for their attentive and loving care.

In keeping with Esther's wishes, no services will be held. Her life will be remembered in every shared meal, every family gathering, and every dance in the kitchen.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *STEPHEN HELMUTH sent a virtual gift in memory of Esther Bach*



STEPHEN HELMUTH - June 16, 2025 at 09:18 PM

SH

“ *Mom, to say you are and will be missed is an understatement. Your memory leaves a legacy of love, strength and kindness. Through all the pain and loss you encountered, you always kept your faith in the beauty of love, family and kindness. I'm so happy you achieved your goal of meeting and loving your great grandson, Bronson We will miss you at every family gathering, coffee klatch or delicious meal. Thank you, mom, for everything you gave us. Your memory will always be a part of who we are. We love you.*

Your Son, Stephen

STEPHEN HELMUTH - June 16, 2025 at 09:14 PM

JS

“ *Aunt Esther, there was only one like you. I can see you peering over your glasses and knowing I couldn't get away with whatever it was lol! But then you'd erupt in laughter and there was no better feeling than knowing it was alright. Everything was alright. I love you always, Aunt Esther!*

Janelle Schneider - June 09, 2025 at 10:07 PM