

Ethel Katz

Apr. 27, 1923 ~ Feb. 21, 2026

Ethel Katz, age 102, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2026. An (almost) life-long Minnesotan, Ethel Spicer was born in St. Paul on April 27, 1923, the youngest of six children. She married Fred Katz in 1945, and after two years in his native Brooklyn, they returned to settle in St. Paul. Ethel and Fred raised a family of five children in Highland Park, and were married for 65 years, until his death in 2010. Ethel was always a paragon of strength and resiliency. She grew up during the Great Depression, began working at her father's store at age 14, and helped manage rations for Minnesota residents during WW2. She went on to raise five children, and then in her 50s, became a real estate agent. Starting with cold calling people in the phone book to get clients, Ethel quickly rose to become the top selling real estate agent across three states. At age 98, she moved from Minnesota to sunny Fort Lauderdale with her son Jamie, and set about meeting new friends (although she did lie and say her age was a youthful 93). Ethel always kept a warm and inviting home, hosting many holidays for her large extended family, and serving a home cooked lunch every weekday to her kids, as well as some nieces and nephews. She was famous in the family for her apple pie assembly line, where she would bake a dozen or more pies at a time. Even when her kids became adults, no one could visit her house without being sent home with a package of food. She loved volunteer work, especially in the Jewish community, and spent a lot of time contributing at Hadassah in particular. Ethel was a multi-tasker before that was a word, in perpetual motion and never wasting a minute of the day. She was always doing for someone else, including her parents, siblings, husband, kids, and grandkids. Ethel was preceded in death by her husband Fred, her parents Oscar and Molly Spicer, and her siblings Paul, Al, Eli, Libby, and Betty. She was also preceded in death by her beloved daughter Donna Mae Block. She is survived by her children and their spouses: Linda and Gary Feldman, Allan Block, David and Beth Katz, Jamie Katz, and Joni and Jeff Zalasky. She also leaves behind five grandchildren, Jessica Feldman (Daniel Simon), Allison Egan (Roger), Andrew Feldman (Lauren Zimmer), Josh Zalasky (Alexandra), and Zach Zalasky (Clare), and seven great-grandchildren: Cole, Eve, Wyatt, Mila, Will, Simone and Maeve. Ethel will be remembered for her love, energy, devotion, persistence, and pure grit, even in the face of challenging times. She will be deeply missed by many. If you wish to make a donation in Ethel's memory, please donate to the Jewish organization of your choice.