



Alvina Freda Pruett Baker

March 4, 1929 - November 16, 2023

Alvina Pruett Baker, longtime Fresno resident died at home Thursday, November 16th in Clovis. She was 94.

Alvina was born Alvina Knieling in Ellis, Kansas in 1929, grew up there during the depression until her family moved to Marion, Oregon, where they farmed on a small plot.

During high school, Vina, as her friends called her, met a young California fellow, Elmo Pruett. After a brief courtship, and the end of World War II where Elmo was an armed service radio man, the young couple married and eventually moved to Reedley.

They had three children: Glen, married to Marilyn (Clanton) Sherry, married to Gary Pedersen and Vivian. Vivian, who died in December 2020 was married to Tom Woo.

The Pruett's had a cabin at Shaver Lake for many years where the family spent holidays and summer vacations.

Elmo died in 1980 and in 1990 Vina remarried a serviceman, Ray Baker, who died in 2003.

She enjoyed teaching at Kerman Floyd Elementary and upon retiring in 1984 loved to travel and volunteer at the VA hospital. She was also a longtime member of the Fresno Emblem Club.

She and Ray joined the peace corps and worked in Botswana for several years before returning to Shaver Lake for summer months and Yuma Arizona for winter months.

In 2009 Vina could no longer live in Shaver and for the last 15 years she lived in Clovis with her daughter, Sherry and husband, Gary.

In addition to her two surviving children, Mrs. Baker is survived by 5 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and 4 great- great grandchildren.

She will be placed at Chapel of the Light.

Remembrances may be made to the American Cancer Society. A private celebration of life service will be held in her honor.