



## Bernice M. Dyck

October 18, 1919 - July 25, 2024

Bernice Mae Dyck

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Bernice Dyck, born in Fresno on October 18, 1919, died peacefully at the age of 104 on July 25. Bernice was predeceased by her husband of 70 years, Harry Dyck, in 2008, and after Harry's death she moved from the family home in Fresno to an apartment at Solstice Senior Living facility in Clovis where she continued her many activities and enjoyed frequent visits from friends and family.

Bernice and Harry are survived by two sons: Harry, Jr. who was a career officer in the US Navy, retiring as Captain and currently living with his wife, Shari, in Michigan; and Richard who spent his career in the electronics industry in Asia and lives in Tokyo with his wife, Ikuko. In addition, Bernice always longed for a daughter, and in 2014 she adopted Chenda, a student from Cambodia who lived with the family while studying at Pacific College and CSFU. Chenda Dyck Alexander is now a licensed marriage and family counselor and lives with her husband, David, in Visalia. Bernice was 95 when she adopted Chenda making her the oldest person on record in California to adopt a "child" (at the time Chenda was 29). With one son in Michigan and the other in Tokyo, frequent visits from Chenda and her son Maxwell were a joy for Bernice in her last decade. Bernice also leaves two grandchildren in Michigan, Lauren and Scott, and two grandchildren in Tokyo, Kana and Oliver, and one in Oakland, Pamela Momoko, and four great grandchildren, with a

fifth great grandson on the way in October.

Bernice and Harry first met as students at Fresno High -- class of 1936 – and they maintained a lifetime commitment to the FHS Alumni Association. During their 70 years together, they were also active in a variety of professional and fraternal organizations. Harry spent his career in the Fresno Fire Department, and he was active in the California State Firemen's Association (CSFA), serving as president and as a member of the Governor's Fire Advisory Board. Even after Harry's retirement from the fire department, he and Bernice continued to attend CSFA activities throughout California.

Bernice joined Raisina Chapter, Order of Eastern Star in 1945, and Harry, a member of Las Palmas- Ponderosa Masonic Lodge, later followed her into Raisina Chapter, and in 1986, when Raisina celebrated its centennial, Bernice and Harry served together as Matron and Patron, presiding over a major celebration at the Fresno Fair Grounds. Raisina later merged with several chapters in the Valley to become what is now called Legacy Chapter. It is only in the last few years that Bernice has been unable to attend meetings, but she kept in contact with her many Eastern Star friends in Fresno, and throughout the United States. She took pride in her 70-year pin, and she was only one year shy of her 80-year pin when she died.

The most rewarding activity for both Bernice and Harry was their role as adult leaders of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic affiliated service organization for girls between the ages of 14 and 20. Bernice was a charter member of the Fresno Assembly of Rainbow Girls when it was organized in May, 1937. From 1973 to 1980, she became the Supreme Deputy for California. California had the largest membership in the world at the time with 13,000 members and 273 individual assemblies. The annual statewide meeting of Rainbow Girls, often held at the Selland Arena in Fresno, was attended by 5,000 to 6,000 girls, with an additional 1000 parents and adult advisors. In its day, it was one of the largest meetings at the Selland Arena Convention Center.

Both Bernice and Harry were only children of single, working mothers, so their

sons, Harry and Richard, grew up without aunts, uncles or cousins. But the life they built together grew into a huge network of friends who became an extended family and, in turn, the aunts and uncles to their two sons. Their home was usually filled with visitors. Up until Bernice's last days in July, not a week would go by without visits from current and former Rainbow Girls or retired firemen and their families.

Bernice's ashes will be interred, beside Harry's, in the Chapel of the Light Columbarium on Belmont Avenue.

Celebration of Life will be held at The Las Palmas-Ponderosa Masonic Lodge Building On Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 11AM. 2992 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, California 93703

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (PT)

The Las Palmas-Ponderosa Masonic Lodge Building  
2992 E. Clinton Ave.  
Fresno, CA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Bernice M. Dyck.*



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November 07, 2024 at 11:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bernice M. Dyck.

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November 07, 2024 at 11:47 PM



“ *MEMORIAL SERVICES will be held at 11:00 Saturday November 16, 2024 at Las Palmas-Ponderosa Masonic Center, 2992 E. Clinton Ave, Fresno CA. A light luncheon will follow.*

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**Harry m Dyck** - August 25, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ *From the 1970s days of Rainbow Girls when I was a Majority Member serving as an Advisory Board member and then later Mother Advisor all the while making quilts for Bee Dee's Grand Worthy Advisors, to our association in Eastern Star and Cal Star News. After serving as Editor for several years, she turned over the typewriter and editor duties to me in 1996 as she remained our editorial advisor, Bernice has always been a friend and mentor. We have enjoyed our friendship for over 50 years and she will certainly be missed. I trust those of us who remain will ever have the trustful faith of Martha that one day we will meet again. RIP dear friend.*

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**Diane Lotspeich** - August 10, 2024 at 07:52 PM

RD

*Dear Diane: Thank you for the thoughts. Rick*

**Richard E Dyck** - August 23, 2024 at 08:22 PM

CB

“ *We will sure miss you, Bernice! Thank you for all of the joyful memories and see you when we get there! 💕*

**chandra blasquez** - August 09, 2024 at 03:40 PM

JL

“ *Bernice was a beautiful woman, she made an impact on my life from the time I first meet her in 1975, through the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Our Assembly always enjoyed TPeeing the Dyke home, mostly because they always had treats of cookies and hot chocolate, after finishing our refreshments we did clean up our mess outside.*

*She was someone I admired and was very excited when I joined Eastern Star and saw her at the meetings.*

*Somewhere in all the years I knew Bernice I didn't find out we attended the same high school, Fresno High. She was a driving force on the Alumni Association and she encouraged me to join and I did.*

*She has a special place in my heart and I will miss her. Prayers to all her family and friends. I know Harry had been waiting a long time for her and now they can celebrate being together.*

**Josette Losurdo** - August 09, 2024 at 02:54 AM

KR

“ *Bernice was Aunt Bernice to me. I grew up visiting her home with her Harry and sons. She was my mother's best friend since the age of 7, Thank you, Aunt Bernice for your love and caring thoughts throughout the many years. I send my heartfelt thoughts to Rick and Skip and Chandra and their spouses and families. Amazing smile and energy always with Aunt Bernice. God Bless you all,*

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**Karlene Kay Ryan** - August 07, 2024 at 09:38 AM

RD

*Karlene: Thank you for the message. You and your family are special!!*

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**Richard E Dyck** - August 23, 2024 at 08:22 PM