



Virginia Dell Morris

August 21, 1923 - September 5, 2016

Virginia Dell (nee Jones) Morris, 93, Ginny to those who knew her, passed away on September 5, 2016, after a long and adventurous life. She travelled the world, divorced once, widowed twice, and tended to eight step children. She loved to dance, smoke cigarettes, eat a good steak and wash it down with a martini. She loved to shop. She was not seriously ill a day in her life until the three month period of weakness and decline leading to her death.

Born in Fresno, California, on August 21, 1923, to Lyndall E. Sloan and James S. Jones, who divorced before her birth, she was raised by her mother and a great aunt. Her Mother remarried when Ginny was 6 years old. Two early caregivers, Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Enos, were also important figures in her childhood.

Coming of age during World War II, her young adulthood was filled with romance, drama and tragedy. A gold locket picturing a pretty young woman and handsome soldier and an accompanying gold bracelet from Bill Harris, a young flier killed learning to fly the unstable P-38 airplane, remained among her treasured possessions.

On February 5, 1946, Ginny married a young sailor, Richard G. Calahan, in Yuma, Arizona. He wrote of Ginny, "To describe her to someone it was impossible, all I could think of that would give her any justice, she looks like an

orchid. This is true she was so beautiful and innocent looking that I was afraid to touch her for fear that I would spoil that untouched loveliness, she was completely out of this world.” They were married for 17 years, divorcing in 1963.

Ginny’s divorce attorney, Frank Sweet, introduced her to C. Carter Crall, a handsome divorcee with four children (Stephanie, Carter, and Penny from his first wife, Margaret; and Christopher, from his second wife, Irene). Ginny liked recounting Frank Sweet told her when he introduced her to Carter at a party, Carter was a lot of fun, but don’t marry him. She fell hard for him, however, and they married June 14, 1963.

Carter’s son, Christopher, then seven years old, came to live with the couple who settled in the San Fernando Valley. They loved to attend Los Angeles area sporting events, especially those at UCLA, Carter’s alma mater. She became a lifelong Dodger fan, enjoying her last trip to Dodger Stadium for her 89th birthday. Ginny always agreed and disagreed with Frank Sweet. She agreed Carter was a lot of fun and disagreed, because she was glad she married him.

Carter died suddenly of a heart attack in 1973, leaving Ginny a widow. Having worked as a secretary in many capacities, including as a young legal secretary to Pat Brown, prior to his service as Governor of California, she lost her job right after Carter’s death. She remembered that time as heartbreak and upheaval. She retired from Prudential Insurance.

Through Carter, Ginny became close friends with Arl Taylor, Carter’s sister-in-law from his second marriage. Arl and her husband, Walter, introduced Ginny to Arl’s co-worker, George Morris, who had been recently widowed. The four of them loved to go dancing and play the card game Skip-bo. They played for coins and when they had enough in the kitty, they took it to Las Vegas.

George and Ginny wed on August, 23, 1980. Although adults, this brought four more children into Ginny's life: Bob, Kathy (deceased), Pattie, and Tom. George passed away in 1994.

Ginny travelled through the United States, Europe, Canada and South America. She enjoyed cruises and still has some tickets waiting for her. She lived all over California, from her beginnings in Fresno, to young adulthood in San Francisco. She graduated from the University of the Pacific. She lived in Blythe, the San Fernando Valley, the Leisure World community in Seal Beach, and Grass Valley.

Ginny eventually moved to Murrieta, to be near her stepson, Chris, and her grandchildren. She spent many Friday nights cheering at high school football games and was part of the K.Houvnianian Four Seasons community. When macular degeneration took away her ability to drive, she moved to Remington retirement community in Rancho Bernardo. Her last move was to Meadowbrook senior community in Escondido. It was there she received loving care and attention from staff and neighbors. She died under the tender care of Pebble Brook Senior Home Care in Temecula, during the last few weeks of her life.

Ginny did beautiful needlework, creating intricate pictures, and knitted scarves and purses for everyone. She had a flair for decorating her homes with motifs of San Francisco, lighthouses, and Kinkaid paintings. She dressed in neat color coordinated outfits and organized meticulously. You could find anything in her home just by looking where something "should" be. It would be found, neatly marked and in a bin or file. She loved to make chocolates, collected dolls, and was an excellent cook. She began shopping for Christmas in the summer and wrapped gifts with a flourish. At 90, she still insisted on hitting the stores on the day after Thanksgiving for the sales, remaining fit and trim.

Ginny is survived by seven of her eight stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Fiercely independent, thanks are gratefully offered for the many kindnesses of those who cared for her during her final time of need, including Elizabeth Hospice. Burial will be at the Chapel of Light in Fresno, CA on September 10, 2016.

Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia Dell Morris*

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