



Virginia Marie Olmstead

September 5, 1928 - July 4, 2020

Memorial services for Virginia Olmstead, 91, of Giddings, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Lexington United Methodist Church in Lexington, Texas with Rev. Raegan Seaton officiating. The service will be live streamed at [Facebook.com/LexingtonMethodist](https://www.facebook.com/LexingtonMethodist) for those that cannot attend. A funeral service with Catholic Mass and burial will take place in Chicago, Illinois at a later date.

Virginia Marie Olmstead – “Ginny” to those blessed to know her well - was born on September 5, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois to Robert John and Clara Helen Dietmeyer. She was the 5th of 6 children and, for all of her 91 years, was devoted to serving others as a kindhearted and steadfast mother, wife, daughter, sister, and aunt, as well as a friend to all around her.

Ginny graduated high school from Loretto Academy in Chicago and got a job at Bell Telephone to support herself through college. Back then, “Ma Bell” provided cots and showers to its employees, so Ginny worked nights at the phone company, took a short nap, and then headed off to DePaul University during the day where she got her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and Child Education.

While still single up until the age of almost 30, which, at that time, meant she was considered by some to be an “old maid,” she was unbothered by that title and took the opportunity to travel, explore and learn, including hitchhiking unaccompanied across the U.S., much to her mother’s distress!

She also took this time to assist some of her 5 siblings in mothering and mentoring many of her 35 nieces and nephews. More than once, she moved in to help care for children, even quitting her job to do so at one point. She was a gentle, wise and fun-loving confidant who loved to laugh and to this day, many of those nieces and nephews feel close and indebted to “Aunt Ginna” for her selfless love and attention.

Throughout her life, Ginny was active in a multitude of volunteer activities in her church,

the local school, and in her community. One such activity was her dedicated involvement in Young Christian Students (YCS) where she met Robert “Bob” Olmstead, who was equally committed to Young Christian Workers (YCW). Both organizations worked for justice and peace as a way to fulfill their mission of bringing the whole world to Christ.

They fell in love, but when Bob proposed to Ginny, she said she had to take time away to decide whether she wanted to become a nun or a wife. After much prayer, Bob won out and Virginia Marie Dietmeyer married Robert George Olmstead on April 19, 1958 at St. Kilian Catholic Church in Chicago. They remained happily married for 55 years until his death in 2013.

Ginny was also preceded in death by her generous and loving parents, “Daddy Rob” and “Gam” and her four beloved siblings, “Bea” Callaghan, Evelyn Archibald, “Bud” Dietmeyer, and June Hodges.

Virginia passed away peacefully on July 4, 2020 at the Giddings Residence and Rehabilitation Center in Giddings, Texas, leaving behind a huge hole in the hearts of those who survive her: daughter Mary Olmstead of Illinois (and her children Brian and Emily), daughter Ruth Olmstead Polonijo of Florida (and husband Darko), daughter Carol Miecznikowski of Illinois (and husband Jan and children Ginny and Monica), daughter Monica Eberz of Lexington, Texas (and husband Phillip and children Payson and Genevieve), and son Robert Frederick Olmstead of Illinois (and wife Marni and children Aidan and Evy).

Ginny is also survived by her very dear, youngest, and happy-go-lucky sister, Joan Stahulak of Arizona, and many nieces and nephews who cherish the time they had with her.

Ginny will forever remain a great role model for her children to aspire to – someone who always saw the best in everyone, gave people the benefit of the doubt, and continued to see their humanity, no matter what their circumstances or behavior. (Much to the annoyance of her children, who used to complain that she would “never take their side!”) She was a trusted ally who offered a compassionate ear and great wisdom to those who asked, and would rather pray for someone than criticize or gossip about them. Amazingly, no one who knew her can remember her saying an unkind thing about another person – a feat that very few people in this world will ever accomplish.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Meals on Wheels, where Virginia volunteered for many years, via their website at <https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/take->

action/donate or by phone at 888-998-6325.

Events

JUL Memorial Service 02:00PM

11

Lexington United Methodist Church

508 North Rockdale St., Lexington, TX, US, 78947

Comments



“ Kristen, Milissa, Elaine, and Cinda purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Virginia Marie Olmstead.



Kristen, Milissa, Elaine, and Cinda - July 08, 2020 at 11:30 AM