

VIOLET SNYDER Obituary



Violet (Vonna) B. Snyder 5/6/1916 ~ 6/30/2010 Our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother "Grandma Nu" moved on to other adventures on June 30, 2010, passing peacefully in her sleep.

Mom was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Eva Jane Abiatti and Joseph Bordonaro. At an early age, Mom's outgoing personality along with her gift for singing and dancing started her along the path to show business, eventually taking her to New York City where she honed her always beautiful voice, singing in nightclubs and on Broadway.

Following her career, Vonna found herself on a cross-country train on the day war was declared and often related the story of peeking out from behind blackout curtains to see nothing but darkness across the country. Singing at Bimbo's 365 Club in San Francisco brought an unexpected career change in the form of a handsome young pilot in the audience.

After a brief courtship, Vonna married the love of her life, George W. Snyder, Jr. and found herself living in a remodeled chicken coop that was called "officer's quarters" at an airfield in New Mexico for the remainder of the war where their first daughter, Vonna, was born.

Settling in Salt Lake City, two additional girls, Rita and Janice joined "Papa George's" flock. Mom put her singing talent to good use as the "champagne lady" on the Eugene Jelesnik Show and later entertaining at the Eccles Center for the Blind and filling the church with her beautiful voice at St. Ambrose as the cantor. As the family grew and grandkids joined the family, each found themselves being recruited to help entertain and raise the spirits of others.

"Papa George" passed away in 1984 and because snow was never a one of "Nu's" favorite things, a few years later she moved to sunny southern California embarking upon yet another adventure. Mom met another wonderful man, Elbern Daisley, and the two spent many years traveling the world and keeping each other company until "El's" death.

"Nu" loved the beach, traveling, golfing, swimming and playing bridge. Above all else, she loved her family and she collected countless friends along the way. Vonna became a mainstay with the Leisure World Aquadettes, performing in synchronized swimming performances.

Violet is survived by her three daughters, Vonna (Rick) Breeze-Martin, Rita (John) Lund and Janice (Mark) Fairbanks; six grandchildren, Tami, Julie, Bret, Hillary, Leslie and Erin; and 11 great-grandchildren. Mom's wish was that even in death she help others and in keeping with her request, her remains have been donated to science.

The family will be gathering together to share their stories and celebrate her life; we ask that each of you remember Vonna with a private thought or share your own stories and smile at your next bridge game.

Mom, we love you. We will always remember the way you laughed until you cried and how you always told us that everything would be fine and it always was.

-Salt Lake Tribune on July 11, 2010