

VIRGINIA MAY SHANNON

Virginia May Shannon born in New Pine Creek, Oregon January 17, 1932 passed away on **March 12, 2020**, she was 88. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, dedicated nurse, and volunteer. She is survived by her 3 children: Thomas K Shannon II, Joan Shannon, and Kathleen Shannon, Daughter-in-law Nadine Shannon, Son-in-law Russell Barnett, 6 Grandchildren: Andrea, Willow, Conor, Caitlin, Colin, Logan, and 6 Great Grandchildren: Alton, Braden, Kenadee, Kastle, Victoria, and Wells. She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas K Shannon, and Granddaughter Julee Shannon and Great Grandson Tatum Shannon. Virginia was infinitely proud of her family, children and adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her family meant everything to her and brought her so much joy.

Virginia was youngest of 6, she lived humbly in Modoc County before moving to San Francisco during WWII, where she attended nursing school and met her husband Tom, a handsome young pilot who swept her off her feet. They honeymooned in Carmel and fell in love with the beauty of the Monterey Bay Area and Salinas Valley where they called home for the next 60 years.

Virginia was someone who people admired, learned from, and inspired. She was truly a beautiful lady inside and out, and someone who dedicated her life to serving others. She worked for 37 years as a registered nurse at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, many years as the Head Nurse of the Emergency Room, and as Director of Nursing. After she "retired" she went on to serve 8 years as a Red Cross Volunteer. She deployed to hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes, often sleeping with evacuees in shelters and tents. She also deployed to New York City twice in the aftermath of 9/11. Her dedication didn't stop there: she served over 4,000 hours as the Service League president and a volunteer at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, where she mentored youths, gave hospital tours, assisted with the medical museum, and compassionately served in the No One Dies Alone program. As a result of her dedication to service, Virginia was the recipient of the long list of awards listed below.

Awards & Accolades

1984 Award for Humanitarian efforts SVMH

1985-1986 Certificate of Appreciation American Heart Association

1986 Nurse of the Year SVMH

1987 Women of Distinction Soroptimist International

1992 Outstanding Service Award SVMH

Certificate of Appreciation, Medical Museum

2010/2011 Red Cross Volunteer of the Year

Red Cross Outstanding Service Award for work at the World Trade Center

Inaugural participant of the Harvard Nurses' Health Study, the largest investigation into the risk factors for major chronic diseases in women.

Virginia's happy place was in her backyard gardening, where she spent many hours tending to her flowers and her prized vegetable garden. She was an active member of the Garden Club, Active Seniors Club, Friendship Club and her church, the Church of Good Shepherd.

Virginia was a special lady with a wonderful presence about her. She could always light up a room and never failed to put others before herself. She was known to live life to the fullest. She was always up for social events, and was impeccably dressed for the occasion. She never said no to an invitation out, and could always be counted on to enjoy a glass of wine. She loved travel and had many adventures around the world with her family and friends.

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