



Florence Richey

April 13, 1927 - April 18, 2019

Florence Estelle Richey, nee Kane, 92, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2019, in Wellington, Florida following a short illness while visiting her daughter, Linda.

“Flo” was born on April 13, 1927, to Robert and Viola Kane of Topeka, Kansas, baptized a Roman Catholic, and raised as the youngest in a household of four brothers (Bernard, Richard, Robert, and John) and one sister (Marian).

Florence attended Capitol Catholic High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washburn University in 1949. At Washburn, where Florence was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority, she met and fell in love with Ronald K. Richey, a law student at Washburn from Erie, Kansas. Although their first date did not go well, thanks to Ron being the chaperone of his fraternity’s mascot, a Saint Bernard. Regardless, they were married at Holy Name Catholic Church in 1949.

After her graduation, Florence worked as a first grade teacher at a public elementary school in Topeka with part of her salary paying for Ron’s law school tuition. Later in life, after her children were in school, she would work in a women’s clothing store and as a real estate agent.

Florence loved to travel and in the course of her adult life lived in Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, Alabama, North Carolina, California, and Colorado, making lifelong friends everywhere she lived. She was known for her sense of humor and carefree attitude. A friend recently noted that she could make a trip to the grocery store fun. She remained loyal to her extended family on both sides of her marriage, particularly her nieces and nephews. Her devotion to Ron’s career was undoubtedly a factor in his professional success.

After Ron’s retirement, Florence and Ron spent their summers in Colorado Springs, a locale she had frequently visited with her family as a child. The view from her front yard there was of Pikes Peak and she enjoyed traveling to Green Mountain Falls and having

brunch near the same creek she had played in as a youngster.

She had a lifelong love of dogs, starting with Spanky when she was a little girl on through her last dog, Tiny Tina. Florence was also a cat-lover, though at times they were not as devoted to her as her canine companions. Florence expressed her love for animals by her generosity to the Greater Birmingham Humane Society. In addition, she was a benefactor of Washburn University through the Richey Scholarship Fund, as well as the Penrose Hospital of Colorado Springs. Florence will be missed for her sense of humor, loyalty to friends, and love of family.

Florence is survived by three children and their spouses, Linda and Bill Graves, Robert and Lysa Richey, and Christopher and Sara Richey; and six grandchildren, Katie, Allyson, Andy, Olivia, Anabel, and Ethan. Her caregiver, Sherry Karr, was by her side in her later years and helped keep "Flo" on the go, traveling to see children and grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church in Topeka, Kansas on May 8 at 10 a.m. with a rosary prayed immediately prior to Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Following Mass, Florence will be interred next to Ronald, at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts in her memory to The Greater Birmingham Humane Society, Birmingham, AL, or the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region in Colorado Springs, CO, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Cemetery

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd

Topeka, KS, 66606

Events

MAY **Rosary** 09:30AM

8

Mater Dei Holy Name Church

1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS, US, 66604

MAY **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

8

Mater Dei Holy Name Church

1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS, US, 66604

Comments



“ Chris & Family, Please accept sincerest condolences from all of the O'Briens on this tremendous loss. My mother Grace thought Florence was wonderful: kind, smart & funny. We loved having you all as 1970s neighbors on Thornridge Road in Quail Creek - OKC. And I remember our QC tennis friend Mary Lester calling your Father the "Golden Boy," and that Ron Richey, Bill O'Brien & Dick Milligan were the "handsomest men at the Church." Said a prayer for your Mother & Family. God bless & all the best to each of you. Requiescat in pace et in amore. Sincerely yours, Mark O'Brien & Family (Dallas, TX)

Mark O'Brien - May 28, 2019 at 12:01 PM



“ Linda, Robert, Christopher, and family...
Your parents touched so many lives, as you can see by the messages. Your parents were Eye Care patients of mine for many years. They were truly wonderful, caring people. During their visits in my office, I would get updates on you and family. They truly loved you all so much. I was able to see your mom about a week before she passed. She was as humorous as ever! I will miss her. Prayers to you and family.

Sarah Gordon - May 02, 2019 at 08:50 AM



“ So sad to learn of the passing of my best college friend and sorority sister. She was so much fun and caring of everyone. I cherish all the wonderful memories of those years with her. Madelyn Franzke, Topeka

Madelyn Franzke - May 01, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ Florence's eyes and smile lit up the room. Her honesty and wit were the stuff of Bob Hope or Johnny Carson. We have lost a treasure.

Jimmy and Jackie Nolan, Shoal Creek, AL

JAMES N NOLAN - May 01, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ Florence was so kind to me. She was deeply concerned for me when my wife of 30 years passed in 2007. Forget that I was the Heating & Air Conditioning guy! I always enjoyed seeing her every summer in Colorado Springs. When she was not in Colorado Springs, we talked on the phone just like we saw each other the day

before! I would give her updates about the property and the HVAC systems. She made me feel as if I was part of her family and I would do anything for her.

My sympathy to Linda, Robert, and Christopher.

Thank you Sherry Karr for your fine care of Florence over the years.

Please call on me for anything you may need for the home in Colorado Springs.

Don Piano

Don Piano - April 30, 2019 at 11:24 AM



“ I have so many wonderful memories of Florence and Family! Honored to be included and honored to have been her friend. Nothing but love and great memories with Florence & Ron!

Sioux Sinnott - April 29, 2019 at 09:53 PM



“ Al, Bob, and Vince (The Neosho Boys) purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Florence Richey.



Al, Bob, and Vince (The Neosho Boys) - April 29, 2019 at 12:14 PM