



Mrs Virginia M Loveless

March 6, 1928 - July 21, 2019

Born Virginia Margaret Neufeld in Riverside, California on March 6, 1928, Virginia was the daughter of William Neufeld, an athlete and coach who threw the javelin in the 1924 Paris Olympics, and Katharine Boardman, a teacher and mother of four who tragically died when Virginia was only seven.

Virginia's devotion to family and home-making was evident early and became her lifelong focus. She and her sister Harriet cared for their two younger brothers and were embraced by their large, extended family. Her father's parents and seven siblings immigrated to California in 1911, coming from the Molotschna Mennonite Colony in Halbstadt, Ukraine, Russia. A family of intellectuals, they settled and farmed in Reedley. Virginia's mother was one of five daughters of a much-loved Congregational minister and educator in Riverside. Virginia's father, grandparents and the many aunts, uncles, and cousins were foundational and remained dear to her throughout her life.

Virginia enrolled in UC Berkeley, her father and mother's alma mater, then transferred to California College of Arts and Crafts where she shown as an artist in ceramics and textiles. During this time she met and married David Loveless of Warren, Ohio, and they pursued their artwork and made a family, settling in Stockbridge, Massachusetts where David developed and directed the Arts and Crafts program at Austin Riggs Center. Her Victorian farmhouse home of 60 years in Stockbridge became her canvas and she transformed it

to a place of beauty. She had a stunning aesthetic sense which profoundly influenced her three children. A great mother, she stopped at nothing to support their diverse interests - allowing sparrow hawks, rabbits and a goat to live in the house at times, her children to sleep summers in a bed in the hayfield, ride a donkey and horses bareback far and wide, devote the dining room to art projects, the livingroom to motorcycle mechanics for years at a time. She was a gourmet cook and baker - apple strudel from scratch the length of the kitchen table, baking whole grain breads sourcing healthy ingredients by mail, hunting morels and wild asparagus with the family, bottling gallons of tomato juice from the garden. And she was thrilled to see the arts carried on by her children and grandchildren - chefs, designer-builders, jewelers, architects, weavers, jazz trumpet musicians.

She threw herself into her various jobs, including teaching Grammar and English at Berkshire Country Day School, Arts and Crafts at Stockbridge School, making soup at the Stock Pot, cooking and caring for Molly and Norman Rockwell for the last ten years of their lives.

Virginia died peacefully at home surrounded by her children on Sunday, July 21. She had just had three happiest days with two of her grandchildren and their families including the newest additions, her two great-grandsons. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her children; Keith Loveless and his wife Lorelei of Arroyo Seco, NM, Barbara T. Postel of Richmond, CA, and Amy K. Loveless of West Stockbridge; grandchildren Sam Postel, Teresa Loveless, Rafael Postel, and Tyler Loveless, great grandchildren Elzada Rae Barry, Shohei Postel and Yuji Postel; one brother Peter B. Neufeld of Emeryville, CA and sister Mary Johnson of Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

Besides her parents Mrs. Loveless was also predeceased by an infant son, Kevin, and siblings Harriet Williams and Bill Neufeld.

To honor her life-long passions for literature and wildlands preservation, in lieu of flowers donations in Virginia's memory may be made to the Stockbridge Library Association or the Laurel Hill Association in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main St., Lenox, MA 01240.

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I met Ginny in 1974 when we moved to Stockbridge and I went to work at the Stockpot. During the years prior to my family relocating to Texas, we shared many visits which always included wonderful meals. My husband was a good cook and I have always loved to cook so we had much in common with Ginny. We stayed in Texas for 11 years but kept in touch during those years. In 1991 I moved to Pennsylvania and would get to see Ginny for a brief visit about once a year for a number of years. We visited her on our way to Vermont when we would go cross country skiing. I have always considered Ginny to be a dear friend and am sorry to know that she is gone from us. Although time and miles have separated us, I will always remember our conversations about pie baking, soup making and so many other things. She was truly a most unique and interesting person and I will always have fond memories of time spent with her.

Bonnie H. Porro - September 08, 2019 at 12:44 AM

MJ

“ Ginny was my sister and was a central figure in my life. When our father was working abroad and I was at college I went to Stockbridge to stay with her and David, Keith, Barb and Amy more often than not. Years later my husband Mike and I married under the tree next to her farmhouse. Ginny cooked our delicious wedding feast which we all ate at the picnic table, under the same tree.

Life was art for Ginny, in every sense and in every way. All she did and all she created, most especially her children and her home, were crafted and cared for with the greatest thought, imagination and concern. At the same time, she loved to laugh and had a lively sense of humor.

I know of no life more deeply lived. As with our father it is very hard to imagine she has gone. I'm not at all sure she has.

Mary Johnson - July 29, 2019 at 03:51 PM

BP

“ July 16, 2019 Joyous evening.



Barbara Postel - July 29, 2019 at 09:57 AM

AK

“ Virginia's intelligence, compassion, sensitivity and open-mindedness persisted into those last decades of her life. I considered it an honor to have met her and to have been in the company of her bright spirit.

Alyce Kaplan

Alyce Kaplan - July 27, 2019 at 09:42 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Roche Funeral Home - July 26, 2019 at 08:43 AM