



Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel

May 22, 1926 - March 11, 2021

Gloria (Gigi) Stupfel was born Gloria Martha Clorinda Mardus, became Gloria De Nike and then Gloria Stupfel. She died on March 11, 2021, just two months shy of her 95th birthday.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Donald Stupfel, daughter Lisa Whitehead (Gary), son John De Nike (Barbara), daughter Gretchen Irion (Brian); Don's children daughter Donna Smith (Michael), son Geoffrey Stupfel (Ylia) and daughter Kristin Edlinger (Heiko), along with 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. She was preceded in death by Donald's son Thomas Stupfel.

Gigi was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on May 22, 1926. She lived in New York as a child, New Jersey in her teens, Arizona for college, had a brief stint back in New York and then remained in California for the rest of her life.

She graduated with a BS in Biological Science and spent her professional career working as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in labs and hospitals.

Gigi received an MS in Health Science in the mid-70s and taught laboratory sciences at Skyline College. She also held a teaching credential for grades 7 through 14.

She was an Assistant Director of Safety Programs for the Golden Gate chapter of the American Red Cross where she assisted the department secretaries with technical information, met with city police chiefs, fire department instructors and P.E. teachers. She also taught first aid and water safety instruction.

She loved to swim and belonged to the San Mateo Marlins Masters swim team with husband Don. They traveled all over the United States to participate in competitive swim meets. She won scores of medals and ribbons over the years. She was ranked in the top ten in the country from 1993 to 2007 in her age group. Some of the more notable events included an international meet at Stanford University in 2006 where she earned six medals, and at the 2008 US Master's Short Course National Championship in Austin,

Texas where she won 5 first place medals when she was 82 years old.

Family genealogy and history were important to Gigi. She kept historic photographs and compiled albums for her children, along with many stories and anecdotes. Gigi loved being a mother and a grandmother.

She belonged to book clubs, wrote about her family and herself and wrote poems and children's stories. A copy of her autobiography is posted on the Skylawn Funeral Home website.

Gigi and Don were very gregarious and social, and Don still is. They always made friends wherever they went. Gigi was a lively character and liked to dress flamboyantly. She was always health conscious and kept in fantastic shape throughout her long life.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider a donation to the American National Red Cross.

Agenda Schedule:

12:30 to 1:00 – Guests Arrive

1:00 to 2:00 – Funeral Service

2:00 – Burial

Cemetery

Events

Skylawn Memorial Park
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd.
San Mateo, CA, 94402

MAR 26 Viewing 12:30PM - 02:00PM

Skylawn Funeral Home
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd., San Mateo, CA, US, 94402

MAR 26 Funeral Service 01:00PM - 02:00PM

Skylawn Funeral Home
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd., San Mateo, CA, US, 94402

MAR 26 Burial Service to follow 02:00PM

Skylawn Funeral Home
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd., San Mateo, CA, US, 94402

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Skylawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park - March 30 at 02:35 PM



“ Dear Gretchen, Brian and family,

Dan, Samantha and I are very sorry about the loss of your mom. We remember her as a vibrant swimmer/athlete - age was not an issue! We will always remember her stories of the swim competitions that she participated and excelled in when we saw her at the Irion family get-togethers.

May the happy memories of her stay close to your hearts and give you comfort.

Our loving condolences,
Gael, Dan and Samantha (Loris) Marrah

Gael Loris - March 27 at 11:18 PM



“ Dear Gigi,
As a child, you held my hand. You have accompanied me through life and remembered every birthday. You will always be in my heart. You taught me many things that I cannot simply convey in a short text. I will miss your stories from your first hand.
Remembering you forever.
Krissy

Below is to the little German girl inside

.....

Liebe Gigi,
der Himmel hat einen neuen Engel bekommen. Ich schicke dir Küsse in den Himmel. Was bleibt hier ist die Seele. Sie ist unsichtbar. Wir können sie spüren wie ein Sonnenstrahl im Gesicht. Es gibt kein Wiedersehen zu sagen. Du bleibst immer in unseren Herzen.
Krissy

Krissy - March 26 at 04:53 AM



“ Very beautiful service
Kristin - March 26 at 05:19 PM



“ Dear Gloria: Wonderful memories of good times: get-togethers, camping, abalone diving, parties. These will always be with us,. Rest in Peace. Love, Olga and Bob Parr.

Olga and Bob Parr - March 25 at 12:40 PM



“ POSTS ON GRETCHEN'S FACEBOOK FROM FRIENDS REGARDING GLORIAS PASSING

Oh Gretchen, I'm so sorry to hear the sad news. I feel fortunate to have met her. I'm glad you were able to see her one last time
Donnie Lew

That's indeed sad. Losing a parent is always tough, and makes one take stock of their own lives. Our thoughts are with you and your family. At 95, that's a nice milestone though. Can't ask for much more than that.
Drew Morgan

Sorry for your loss Gretchen; I still remember your mother's little book which she wrote years ago.
Claudia Silvestre

Ohh I am so sorry Gretchen I remember your beautiful Mother and you will see her again is my belief. Love you and prayers with comfort to your family xox
Mary Ann Spiteri Wik

Gretchen I am so sorry to hear this. Your mom was always so nice to us when we would all hang out at your house...summer of '75! Great memories!
Dave Michales

Gretchen I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing! I have fond memories of the time I spent at your house and how she made me feel like part of the family. This is the perfect photo of her! My thoughts are with you during this difficult time!!
Rebecca Lombardi

I'm so sorry, Gretchen. I always enjoyed Gloria's company, she was so full of energy and smiles. I know she was very proud of you and your family and she would send us holiday cards with pictures of you and your clan prominently featured. To me, her life was well lived and full — truly something to celebrate.
Sasha Taus

wow another pillar in my life gone. I will always be grateful for the kindness, humor, and trust she had in me. i grew up thanks to your Mom and Don. My condolences to your family. She was loved by many especially me.
Scott Shaffer



“ Hi,

I am Gloria's youngest daughter, Gretchen. I would like to share some memories of Gloria.

My mother always had a hug for us when we were feeling down. She taught us to read and bake apple crumb pie. She taught us how to sew and iron. We all helped out a meal-times with setting the table and doing the dishes.

She loved entertaining and chatting with the neighbors at the grocery store. She gave advice and told amusing stories. When she wasn't sure about someone she would tell me that they were, "a real character". However, she was herself, a bit of a character. She was not swayed by the beliefs of others and always did what she thought was right. She worked in the late sixties as a laboratory technologist when most women were "housewives". She nursed her children in when it was popular to go right to the bottle. She always spoke her opinion and she was not easily intimidated.

She bought her own car in high school and paid for it with a job she got typing even though she could barely type. She drove her friends to the dances and managed to make more money than her father before she finished her education. She majored in biology even though the sciences were male dominated at that time. She worked two jobs as a laboratory technologist when I was in high school to have enough money to purchase additional properties. She never let anyone tell her something could not be done because, by golly if it could be done with more gumption, then she would do it. She passed this attitude on to her three children. We have all been successful in our relationships and careers. We have grown children of our own now and hopefully we all carry some of the Gigi spirit. We will all miss her dearly.

Thank you for coming today.

Gretchen Irion - March 24 at 11:10 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel.



March 24 at 01:48 PM



“ Kristin, Heiko, Sky, Lea and Annemarie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel.



Kristin, Heiko, Sky, Lea and Annemarie - March 20 at 05:13 PM



“ Barbara De Nike lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Barbara De Nike - March 17 at 05:07 PM



“ Gloria was a wonderful Mother In Law who welcomed me into her family when I met her son. She and Don were always a very lively couple who loved meeting people wherever they went. Every year they would travel down to San Diego to help celebrate her son and granddaughter's birthday. It was always a lot of fun having them come. When my daughter decided she wanted to attend San Francisco State University, her grandparents built her a room at their house to help make her dream happen. We are forever grateful to them both for all the love, guidance, and support they have given our daughter. I lit this red candle (her favorite color) in her memory. She had a life well lived!

Barbara De Nike - March 17 at 05:22 PM



“ Gigi taught me many things.
Gigi taught me the colors.
Gigi taught me the numbers.
Gigi taught me the letters.
Gigi taught me how to read.
Gigi taught me how to tell time.
Gigi taught me how to cook.
Gigi taught me how to sew.

Gigi told me that I could do anything and I could be anyone, as long as I was a doctor, a lawyer or an engineer.

I loved being a software engineer for 30 years.
Thank you, Gigi!

Lisa Whitehead - March 14 at 10:06 PM



“ My mother taught me that nearly anything is possible if you set your mind to it!
Gretchen, Gloria's daughter

Gretchen Irion - March 21 at 08:10 PM



“ Sky lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Sky - March 14 at 11:28 AM



“ Toni Nunes lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Toni Nunes - March 14 at 11:24 AM



“ Heiko lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Heiko - March 14 at 01:54 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Annemarie - March 14 at 01:27 AM



“ In loving memory, from the blackforest

Annemarie - March 14 at 01:54 AM



“ Annemarie lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Annemarie - March 14 at 01:23 AM



“ Lea lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Lea - March 14 at 01:05 AM



“ Kristin (aka Krissy, Kris) lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Gigi" Stupfel



Kristin (aka Krissy, Kris) - March 14 at 12:40 AM



“ We will really miss you! Thank-you for all the flowers and candles! Would you like to share a good memory?

Gretchen Irion - March 21 at 08:26 PM