



## Gloria Houston

June 7, 1923 - June 6, 2019

Gloria B. Houston passed away peacefully into the arms of our Lord while at her home in Aliso Viejo, California. She was preceded in her passing by her loving husband of 67 years, James Guilford Houston. Also, preceded by her parents, William Henry Buchanan Sr. and Bertha Elizabeth (Becker) Buchanan, her loyal brother, William Henry Buchanan, Jr. and loving sister, Barbara Ann (Buchanan) Fullerton.

She is survived by her devoted daughter, Barbara Ellen McCain (loving son in law Dr. Dennis McCain, Sr.), Grandchildren, Sean McCain (Melissa), Dennis McCain, Jr. (Jennifer), Shannon Alderson (Gary), 8 Great Grandchildren and 3 Great-Great Grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Born Gloria Irene Buchanan in New York City, New York, she was the oldest of her siblings. She attended New York public schools, graduating with honors. She was selected for a special WWII accelerated program at Penn State University where she studied Math and Engineering. She then worked at Curtis-Wright Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo, New York in the development of new aircraft. She served in the WAVES during World War II in Washington, DC in the National Weather Service, European Front. It was there that she met her beloved husband, James, a Marine Raider. They were married at Camp Lejeune on September 25, 1945.

Gloria continued her education at the University of Missouri, Columbia where she earned her BA in education. She earned her Master's in Education at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She later attended the University of California, Los Angeles, from which she received her PhD in Education. She taught primary school in Missouri and California, where she later retired as a Master Teacher for the Los Angeles County School District. Gloria enjoyed many years of Emeritus classes at local community colleges, including Art, Art History, Calligraphy and Yoga. She continued her love of Yoga until shortly before her passing. She had a passion for education and the WAVES. She served as President of The WAVES Southcoast Unit #132 for many years.

Gloria was a loving, selfless, and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. After moving to California, Gloria and James lived in Northridge, Dana Point and Aliso Viejo. They were among the original residents of The Covington Episcopal Retirement Community where

she attended the weekly services and continued in her faith. Many said she had a pep to her step and displayed grace and dignity. She was a positive, loving influence to her family and others.

Her family has been blessed to have had her in their lives and will continue to honor her memory by seeking to live their lives in a way that would make her proud. Gloria was greatly loved and will be missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

The family wishes to thank Orange County Hospice, Dr. Maziar Zamani and The Covington for their care and kindness in her final days. A private family ceremony and burial will be held in her memory.

The family requests that no flowers be sent for service.

# Comments

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“ My mother, Gloria Buchanan Houston, was precious to our family. She loved each of my children and grandchildren and great grandchildren with a special joy. For years she never forgot a birthday or special occasion, which showed her selflessness. I have rarely seen a more dedicated wife. She loved my father with deeds of faithfulness and loyalty. Their long marriage attested to their mutual devotion. I remember meeting the families of some of her elementary students when she was a teacher. They all were very attached to her and her devotion to their children. I remember that she hated labeling and so fought for each student to be viewed as an individual. She was always interested in art and it was a special part of her life. She loved to cook with my father, and they both allowed me into the kitchen at an early age. By the time I was a teen, she let me experiment and then regularly provide the meals for our family. I am forever grateful for that. She also taught me how to make my bed in military fashion, telling me stories of her WAVES experience. As she got older, I loved working together with her on the newsletters and programs for her WAVES unit, of which she was a very diligent and dedicated President. She loved her WAVES unit. I have many memories of my mother what will fill my heart and memories. I am so thankful she passed away peacefully.

**Barbara E McCain** - 7 hours ago