



Dorothy Noyes McCollum Holmberg

April 17, 1923 - December 3, 2021

Dorothy Noyes McCollum Holmberg passed peacefully after a short illness on December 3, 2021, in the company of her daughters. Born April 17, 1923, in Mishawaka, IN to Dorothy Boles Noyes McCollum and Donald Louis McCollum, she was the older sister of Donald Louis McCollum who previously passed in 2019. While she was looking forward to celebrating her 99th birthday at her beloved Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage, she expressed her gratitude for life every day.

Dorothy spent her youth in Naugatuck, CT. She graduated in 1941 from St. Margaret's School in Waterbury, CT, earned an associate degree at Bradford Junior College in 1943, and received a certification from the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in New York City in 1944. On October 27, 1945, Albert William Holmberg, Jr and Dorothy married in Colorado Springs, CO. She embarked on the role of devoted wife and stay at home mom for her three daughters, Jeanne Johnson, Margaret Duckworth, and Elin Rowland. After a divorce in 1972, she began a new journey and entered the workforce, ultimately reaching the position of legal assistant at Pitney-Bowes. She also returned to school and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from PACE University in 1976 and received a paralegal certificate from Taylor Business Institute in 1978. In retirement, she spent a good portion of 1990-94 at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico volunteering in the financial and administrative offices and taking classes. She resided independently from 1996-2015 at Rydal Park

Continuing Care Community in Jenkintown, PA where she managed the library and enjoyed playing bridge and working with her personal trainer.

In 2015 she moved to Sky Valley, CA with her eldest daughter Jeanne where they lived with her youngest daughter Elin. Here, she could regularly indulge her love of music and theatre by going to the Met operas, TCM movies, and Bolshoi ballet at the movie theaters. She loved to follow all kinds of sports, especially rooting for the favorite teams of her grandsons. Our weekly visit to Sunnylands for lunch and a walk never ceased to thrill her as did her nightly ice cream ration. She inspired the younger people who served as her hairdresser, private trainer, massage therapist, care givers, and esthetician as well as our thoughtful neighbors.

Dorothy was able to travel abroad extensively and live in many places around the US. No matter where her home was her focus was that of being of service to those around her. Her list of activities includes Girl Scout leader, member of the Board of East Harlem Protestant Parish, AFS chapter president and host, an active member of P.E.O., and various positions in the churches of her choice. She was a member of the D.A.R., was passionately devoted to civil and human rights, and proud to say she went to Washington, DC to join a protest against nuclear arms.

We remember her for her resilience, her lifelong interest in learning and current affairs, and active devotion to her community. Having lived through nearly a century of bright innovation and dismal traumas, she found a path of continued acceptance and optimism. She often expressed her gratitude for her good fortune and the care of a loving family.

Besides her three daughters, she is survived by 6 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 7 nieces and nephews.

Sincere thanks are extended to the staff at Comfort Care Solutions for their kind care of her during her last few months and Mission Hospice in guiding us through the last few days.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy Noyes McCollum Holmberg*

October 05, 2023 at 09:38 PM



“ *Your dear mother, the world was blest with her presence. Amazing woman, whose life gifted all of those around her. Ever present in her beautiful daughters and grandchildren. Sorry and love for her loss*

Maggie Tennesen - April 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *The photo was taken at the upper Sky Valley house in front of the olive tree. On this occasion Dorothy and Elin walked us to our car after we had collected a bag of olives to cure. Whenever we stopped to visit Elin or Jeanne, Dot always would come out from her room with a smile and a warm greeting. She was ready to join in any conversation, discussing such things as current New York Times articles she had just read or an engaging opera she had recently seen. She had a gracious manner in relating to others. In particular, we remember a New Year's eve party in Sky Valley; Dot looked beautiful and easily chatted away the evening with the other guests! It was always a pleasure to see Dorothy! Jeanne and Elin surrounded Dot with great love and devoted care, nurtured her spirit with the arts, and brought her beauty through ongoing visits to Sunnylands. It was clear that they were returning the deep love that they had received from her. With much affection, Marilyn and Jay*

Marilyn and Jay Marks - April 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dot as her Personal Trainer shortly after they moved to the Desert. I always called her my "Special Client" and bragged about her often. She felt like family to me. Dot had more spunk than most people half her age. She loved to exercise! I will always remember how she comforted me during my mother's illness and loss. I will remember Dot fondly for her strength, wisdom, kindness and compassion. Love, Cari

Cari Allison - April 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ As I reflect on my relationship with Grandma (referred to as Gigi once she was blessed with great grandchildren), her keen sense of spirituality shines through, as does of her love of family. When I graduated from my doctoral program in 2006, I thanked all of my grandmothers, whose "individual paths through life taught me so much about being a woman in society." That holds true today as well. May you rest in peace Gigi.

Heather Smith - April 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I remember a time when Elin and I, and others too, I believe, went with Mrs. Holmberg to a church, probably the East Harlem Protestant Parish mentioned in the obituary. I think the group was teens from the youth group at our church -Huguenot Memorial (Presbyterian) Church - in Pelham, NY, and she was bringing us to visit this church. It was clear that she was very familiar with the church. I don't think I'd ever been to Harlem before so it was an impactful trip - so much so that I still remember it over 50 years later.

Betsy Hardy - April 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dorothy Noyes McCollum Holmberg*

elin holmberg - January 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM