



Dorian Lucille Griffin

OCT 14, 1935 - JUL 13, 2015



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Dorian Lucille Griffin

OCT 14, 1935 - JUL 13, 2015

Dorian L. “Lucille” Griffin passed away on July 13, 2015 at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido, CA.; she was 79 years old. Lucille left us with her two sons at her side, following complications from an illness. The eldest of five children born to Joseph E. G. and Dorian M. Kempton, she was preceded in death by her brother Joseph L. Kempton and sister-in-law Carolyn J. Grove. Lucille is survived by her sons James S. and Jody E. Griffin, sisters Patricia J. Martin of Lakeside, CA. and Irene M. Harden of Yuba City, CA., brother James J. Kempton of Loma Rica, CA. , ex-husband Jack H. Griffin of Ramona, CA., and many nieces, nephews, and others who called her Aunt Lou, Aunt “Lukey” or “Mom”. Born October 14, 1935 in San Diego, she grew up in varied spots in the county; Pacific Beach, La Jolla, Lemon Grove were places she called home. Although her grandmother tried to teach her to be a lady, she turned out as more of a tomboy. As a young woman, listening to Johnny Cash at the old Bostonia Ballroom was enjoyed as much as races at El Cajon Speedway, riding on the back of her cousin Bill’s motorcycle, or the bullfights in Tijuana. During those years she met a young man from Georgia who had come out to stay with his sister; she eventually married him, becoming Mrs. Jack Griffin and part of another family, with Escondido becoming their home. As a stay-at-home wife, she had two sons, Jamey and Jody; circumstances changed and she became a single working mother, still remaining close to both families. A graduate of SDSU, she was a longtime employee of the Escondido Union School District where she worked as an office manager at Orange Glen Elementary, a position she held for over 20 years, making many friends along the way. Lucille spent her spare time doing many things including genealogy research for the entire family with the help of her lifelong friend Jacque Beck. She also enjoyed making miniature teddy bears under her own label “Barefoot Critters” as a member of the San Diego Teddy Bear Artists Club, many of who remain close friends. She also enjoyed working in her cactus garden at home. As



Obituary

Dorian Lucille Griffin

OCT 14, 1935 - JUL 13, 2015

part of her genealogy research, one of her favorite things to do was to travel the country trying to track down the resting places of family members. Lucille enjoyed traipsing thru old forgotten graveyards, looking for markers with various family names. On one trip, she and her friend Jacque visited the Utah State Archives in Salt Lake City, spending hours digging thru books, paper files and microfilm, before such information was easily available on the internet. She found the resting place of Elbridge Gerry in a cornfield in Montana, and located a number of cemeteries and burial sites that family members knew existed, but didn't know precisely where. More than once, her sister-in-law Carolyn traveled with her to Georgia doing just that. Spending time with her family and friends was a favorite pastime of hers; an avid sports fan, she enjoyed cheering on her favorite teams, the Chargers and the Padres. Lucille also enjoyed going to the casino with Carolyn and good friend & neighbor Ollie Sering; it was common for them to get home after 2 in the morning. Health issues in recent years prevented Lucille from enjoying many of her hobbies, but she tried not to let it slow her down. Kidney problems eventually led to dialysis; vision problems prevented her from reading easily. Life slowed down for her, and she slowed with it. Still, Lucille enjoyed simple things like a meal out with family or friends; going out with her friend Shirley who came every Friday after work to take her to dinner and catch up, or visiting with her teddy bear ladies, the monthly "Lunch Bunch" gathering was looked forward to by all. Family dinners with her ex-husband Jack and his wife Arline were especially enjoyed. Trips to visit family were replaced by doctor's appointments and all too frequent hospital stays and time spent in convalescent care. Still, she managed to make new friends of nursing staff and other patients, many of whom came to enjoy Lucille's offbeat sense of humor; Debbie and the staff at Davita Dialysis nicknamed her "Thumper" because of several falls where she bumped some part of her body. Cataract surgery helped improve her vision and her outlook, but it came a little too late. Illness finally got the best of her, but she remained feisty & stubborn until the end. With her sons each holding one of her hands, she passed from this world as peacefully as could be expected, leaving behind many who will miss her and remember her fondly. At her request, we are laying Lucille to rest beside her parents and near many other family members that



Obituary

Dorian Lucille Griffin

OCT 14, 1935 - JUL 13, 2015

she held dear. A graveside service will be held Saturday, July 25 at 1pm for anyone who wishes to attend. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of your choice in Lucille's name.



Tribute Wall

Dorian Lucille Griffin

OCT 14, 1935 - JUL 13, 2015

JG

Jody Griffin posted:

Jamey and Jody would like to thank you for your condolences in Lucille's passing. It is comforting to know that for someone who didn't like being the center of attention, she was cherished by so many wonderful family and friends. For those of you who hadn't seen Lucille for some time, increasing health problems the last couple years caused her to slow down. There was the occasional grumble, but no outright complaint; Lucille accepted the hand she was dealt. In fact, her tenacity & stubbornness to do things her way helped Lucille deal with the many obstacles that life put in her path. Lucille's sons ask you to remember their mother at her best ? with a teddybear in her pocket, a mischievous twinkle in her eye, and a kind word for her loved ones.

August 24 at 5:55 PM

CW

Chris W posted:

I worked with Lucille when I first started with Escondido Union School District. She was the office manager at Orange Glen Elementary and I was working part time in the health office. She would constantly remind me to keep the health office keys safe (a job I wasn't very good at at the time). I think she actually removed them from my custody at one point. I did earn them back and I enjoyed working with her. I remember her dedication and her friendly manner. My thoughts are with your family. Chris W

July 24 at 11:20 AM

JH

Jody Harris posted:

So sorry for your loss. Lucille was a lifesaver for me when I was first hired as a classroom assistant at Orange Glen Elementary! She very patiently answered all of my "How do I? Where is? What do I do about?" questions. We enjoyed discussing her tiny teddy bears. I'm a quilt maker so just had to make some tiny quilts for her tiny teddys. I have many fond memories of Lucille. She will be greatly missed!

July 24 at 6:47 AM

JH

Jody Harris posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss. Lucille was a wonderful lady! I met her when I started working as a classroom assistant at Orange Glen Elementary about 29 years ago. She was so patient and helpful whenever I asked-How do I...? She made the cutest tiny teddy bears! We had many fun conversations about them. I make quilts so I had to make some mini quilts for her tiny bears. I will always have fond memories of Lucille.

July 23 at 5:57 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dorian by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

