



## Lt. Col. Willa Ray Podgornoff

October 29, 1946 - February 6, 2019

Willa Ray Podgornoff, 72, of Houston passed away Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Ms. Podgornoff was born October 29, 1946 in Port Arthur, TX to Dorothy and J.P. Clark. She is survived by her children, Edward P. Podgornoff, Dorothy Podgornoff, Irena Podgornoff Savides, Matthew Podgornoff; her brother, William R. Clark as well as extended family and friends.

Willa grew up in Nederland, TX and attended Texas Women's University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She later attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and earned a Masters Degree. After college Willa joined the United States Army in 1970 as a Lieutenant and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She served her country both stateside and overseas in Vietnam, Okinawa and Korea as a registered nurse and officer for twenty-one years. After retiring from the armed service, she continued to practice nursing in different capacities for many years.

Willa enjoyed traveling, building miniature houses and spending time with her family. She was a loving and caring person who had the heart of a servant. She adored her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Willa was loved by those who knew her and will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Service celebrating Willa's life will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 2:00 PM at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. Houston, TX 77056.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to St. Martin's Episcopal Church or the University of Houston Medical School in Willa's name. Lt. Col. Podgornoff will be laid to rest with Military honors in Oak Bluff Memorial Park in Port Neches, TX at a later date.

# Cemetery

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## Oak Bluff Memorial Park

618 Block

Port Neches, TX, 77651

# Events

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**FEB 19** **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
717 Sage Road, Houston, TX, US, 77056

# Comments

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“ My partner Richard Meyer and I met dear Willa many many years ago via Mary Howell when Willa visited us in Seattle. What a funny hoot she was and my gosh we learned all about miniatures that weekend with her scouring Seattle for new miniatures to purchase for her collection.

In October 2015 I met Willa and Mary in Chicago for a long weekend of eating out, shopping and going to the Second City Comedy Club, what a fun time we had. I especially enjoyed her purchase of the Chinese Gong she found in Chinatown in Chicago and had it shipped to her home in Houston with the other \$Million dollars worth of goods she purchased, she was a shopper. She spoke fondly of her brother Billy and their life in Houston, it made me want to visit them there. I missed that opportunity.

I know the pain of your loss as I lost Richard to the same cancer in March 2011, Willa, like Richard is gone to early. You have wonderful memories of Willa to carry you through life which will get you through the days until you all see her again and she will be waiting with open arms and new miniatures, and no doubt a great Chinese Gong.

The best to you all.

Larry Martin  
Spokane, WA

Larry Martin - February 12, 2019 at 09:07 PM

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“ God created one of his strongest women, a solider, nurse, mother, sister and called her "Willa Ray".

The laughter, joy, tears and sorrow that we shared for 40 years will be remember in our minds and hearts long after our physical bodies are gone.

My military mentor and definition of a true friend who always went above and beyond.

Willa was always there for me and I know as I cross the Rainbow Bridge she will be waiting.

Willa, my friend the heart and soul of caring!!

. Mary....

" In the midst of darkness there is a light; in the midst of sorrow, joy."

Mary Howell - February 12, 2019 at 09:43 AM



“ Mary Howell is following this tribute.

**Mary Howell** - February 12, 2019 at 09:30 AM