



Virginia A. Baker Reed

November 26, 1923 - January 4, 2014

Virginia Baker Reed (known as “Gigi” to her grandchildren) was born on November 26, 1923. She died peacefully on Saturday evening, January 4, 2014, at Vitas Hospice at Hermann Memorial City Hospital surrounded by angels to take her to see her Lord. She was a profoundly faithful woman who died with the peace granted to her by that faith.

Virginia gave selflessly never seeking the glory for herself. She had many passions including her work with the Girl Scouts; the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry where she served as chairman for several terms; the alumni of Seton High School; and the parish of St. John Vianney where she was a founding member. Her greatest love and strongest devotion, however, was to her family and friends as evidenced, in part, by her attendance at the high school graduations of each of her eleven grandchildren.

Virginia was born in Baltimore, Maryland to Maime Bridget Harron and Edwin Gilbert Baker. Edwin was a veteran of WWI and died shortly after Virginia was born from injuries sustained in the war. Virginia was raised by her mother and her step-father Phillip Badinger (known as “Papa”).

Virginia attended Seton High School in Baltimore, where she made straight As and was head cheerleader. She was awarded a scholarship to attend nursing school, but shortly after graduation, went on a blind date with a handsome,

young man by the name of Richard C. Reed Jr. and the rest, as she used to say, was “herstory.” They were married on June 13, 1942, in Baltimore, and it was only a month later that her husband was shipped out to serve in WWII. During that time Virginia lived in New York City with her in-laws, Duane Hodges Reed and Richard Chester Reed. She remained devoted to them until they died in the 1980s.

Virginia lived with her husband in Atlanta, Georgia; Dayton, Ohio; New York City; Port Arthur, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Houston, Texas where she lived for 51 years until her death. While in Port Arthur they were able to enjoy life among many family members including Bill and Catherine Hodges and their daughters Jerry Aline and Suzy.

In Houston, Virginia made numerous friends and one of her closest was Pauline Gentry (known to the family as Aunt Polly) who lived next door on Conifer Road. Virginia and Aunt Polly remained close to the end and Polly and her daughters recently attended Virginia’s 90th birthday celebration along with many other of her loving family and friends.

Among the numerous awards Virginia received in her lifetime, she was most proud of the Lifetime Achievement Award she received from the Girl Scouts of America on April 30, 2005. Many of her family members attended that day to recognize her then four decades of service to help the girls and young women to whom she was committed.

Despite the accolades, recognitions and many awards given to Virginia over the years, nothing was more precious to her than family -- her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and the families of Jerry Aline, Suzy and Virginia’s late brother Jimmy Badinger.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, mother, father, step-father,

brother Edwin, step-sister Annabell Badinger, step-brother James Badinger, beloved uncle, Seymour Baker, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, Elizabeth Reed Horn and beloved aunt and uncle by marriage, Bill and Catherine Hodges.

She is survived by her eldest daughter, Sharron Reed (and her partner, Jeff Gavin), and Sharron's children, Nowell, Cory, Kelleen (and Kelleen's partner Brian Lisi), and Christopher ("C.J.") Maluski; her son Richard ("Rick") Chester Reed III (and his wife Joanie) and Rick's children, Ryan (and his wife Jessica), Brett (and his wife Mary Pat), Wes and Jeff Reed; and her daughter, Colleen Virginia Reed, and Colleen's children, Ben, Matt and Nicholas First. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Daphne and Ellie Reed, daughters of Ryan and Jessica, and her great-grandson due in May to Brett and Mary Pat.

She is also survived by her Badinger niece, Mareia, and nephews, Gerry, David and Jimmy as well as the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Bill and Catherine Hodges including Jerry Aline and her children, and Suzy and her children.

Virginia was loved and cared for by the wonderfully compassionate individuals at Colonial Oaks on Richmond Avenue where she lived until she had a stroke on Christmas Eve. The family thanks the caregivers at Colonial Oaks as well as the kind and tender staff at Vitas Hospice who greatly assisted Virginia in her last days.

Her family, loved ones and friends are saddened by her death but blessed by the long, giving, loving life she shared with us all, and the knowledge that she has moved to her eternal life with God to which she aspired. Her light will continue to shine, and her legacy live on, in those whose lives she touched.

Thank you for being her friend and for gracing her with a life of love and joy. She counted your friendship and love among her greatest blessings.

Visitation will be at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive at Kirkwood, Houston, TX 77079, on Thursday, January 9 from 6:00 – 9:00. with a Vigil at 7:00 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079 on Friday, January 10 at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to leave your condolences, visit www.dettlingfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to a scholarship to be established in her name in care of the San Jacinto Girl Scout Council. Please contact the SJGSC at (713) 292-0300 or (800) 392-4340.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Oaks Cemetery

13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Vigil Service

JAN 9. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

JAN 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079

Reception

JAN 10. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079

Graveside Service

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Oaks Cemetery
13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia A. Baker Reed*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Virginia A. Baker Reed*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Virginia A. Baker Reed*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Virginia A. Baker Reed*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *I miss you more every day, Mom Pom. <3*

Sha - March 21, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ *Please accept deepest sympathy and healing thoughts from Seattle, WA. My sister knew Ms. Reed and talks so highly of her. May she rest in peace and may you find strength and comfort in knowing she was a remarkable human being.*

Teresa DeLeon-Cook - January 21, 2014 at 10:53 PM

BO

“ How great it was working with Virginia Reed. We especially remember working with her in the years around 1980, when she headed the National Catholic Girls Organization (NCGO), predecessor to the NCCGSCF. She was a strong, dynamic leader with a vision.

Carol & Bob Oldowski, Minneapolis, MN

Bob Oldowski - January 16, 2014 at 12:28 PM

SS

“ I looked forward to seeing Virginia everytime there was a convention or Girl Scout gathering were we would meet. I always knew if I couldn't find the answer to a question Virginia would know. The telephone line from California to Texas was unbroken and we talked for hours. Sometimes I just called to vent knowing Virginia would understand my dilemma and know what to do. Her favorite sayings in the last few years years was "They can't do that" or "No, it doesn't happen that way".

I was so impressed that she always knew me and remembered my family. She was 28 yrs older than I and I felt like she was my mother.

I am the chairman of the Catholic Girl Scout Committee in Los Angeles, California and quite often refer to Virginia in our work-- "Virginia would/wouldn't do it this way". I will certainly miss her guidance but I know she will be with us from heaven and watch over us from there. I thank God for letting us have this precious, always generous lady in our lives!

Sharon Shellman

Covina, CA

Sharon Shellman - January 13, 2014 at 06:58 AM

CR

Thank you for sharing this Sharon Shellman! We really appreciate that you appreciated her experience and wisdom and that she was of some help and guidance to you! Mom made friends all over the country and it is so good to hear from those of you we never got to meet. It warms our hearts and brings us comfort!

Colleen, Sharron and Rick

colleen reed - January 13, 2014 at 06:15 PM

SR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



sharron reed - January 08, 2014 at 11:05 PM

SR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



sharron reed - January 08, 2014 at 11:04 PM

MG

“ Hello Girlfriend!

When I picked up the phone and heard these words, I knew it was Virginia! She would giggle and graciously ask about me and my family, then would share a personal anecdote. After the niceties were completed, we were off to the races!

As a staff partner with Virginia for the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council off and on for twenty years, I was impressed with her constant attention to detail and high standards. As we worked together I learned this was Virginia and helped to ensure accurate and girl friendly programming that would benefit girls, their leaders and parents and the community -- an inspiration.

Virginia was passionate for the great work accomplished by the council and national volunteers for the Catholic Youth Ministry and wished all faiths would offer girl programs, so she assisted them whenever and however possible. Her outreach included local individuals in various denominations to national organizations, such as P.R.A.Y.

Virginia lived intentionally. When asked to complete a project, that project became part of the fun of living! From crafting an invocation for the council meeting to revising form F-7 (overview of the religious recognitions – never-ending) she was prepared to enjoy the process with a fine product at the end. Virginia wanted it right, and it had to look pretty.

Her attentiveness to whatever was current, i.e. cell phones (we worked together over 20 years), computers (oh my!) and various computer programs were topics of considerable conversations and angst. Virginia loved emails. She would read everyone sent and forward a number of them on to others.

Virginia was always honored to be invited to award ceremonies for Girl Scouts. She would prepare herself and her comments, if asked to speak, as though the Queen herself was attending. She was

thrilled for what the girl accomplished and had high hopes for her future as a leader in her part of her world.

Her fond memories of her time in school, her friends at 'home' and her marvelous family were just what StoryCorps (<http://storycorps.org/>) searches for --- I heard new stories, and some repeats, with every visit. I felt like her friends and family members were mine when I had the pleasure of meeting them.

Virginia liked to have fun! The birthday parties she would attend for Lee and I ranged from Astros Baseball games to throwing popcorn at the villain at the Theatre Suburbia summer melodrama. Virginia was always game, making special 60th birthday pennants with his baby birthday photo from the invitation, tickling Lee!

It's a small world! Virginia enjoyed the Alley Theater Summer Chills, Agatha Christie/ Hercule Poirot. We had close seats and were enjoying a great conversation at intermission with her granddaughter when lo and behold, her granddaughter Latin teacher was my GS Camp Agnes Arnold Camp Counselor Friend's (did you get that?). They chatted on the phone as the lights dimmed. Life is amazing, if you stop long enough to realize it.

Virginia will always be with me and I'm a better person because of our friendship. Many thanks, Virginia! Enjoy the next part of your exciting journey and save this friendly Protestant a seat!

Melinda Gaskill mkg

Melinda Gaskill - January 08, 2014 at 05:45 PM

CR

oh my goodness, Melinda!!!! I am soooooo very very touched! What an amazing tribute to mother! I've known for years you were friends but you brought it all to life before my eyes!!! You have made my mother appear to me as I never saw her! Thank you so much for these memories! I will cherish them forever!

Love you bunches-Colleen

colleen reed - January 08, 2014 at 10:31 PM

KC

“*Virginia was a neighbor to my parents, Art and Mary Ellen Moore. She was my husband, Bob and my "wedding consultant", as she helped guide the family through the wedding and all the events that led up to " The Wedding". She was always interested in our lives and was a wonderful friend to our family, even as it grew...as did hers! She will be forever a part of our hearts and fond memories of wonderful times...including loading all our wedding presents for a trip to El Paso, while imbibing some Bloody Mary's, and having a wonderful time with Mary Ellen, Jo Ann, Elaine and so many others! Kathleen and Bob Covey*

Kathleen Covey - January 08, 2014 at 04:36 PM

CR

Kathleen and Bob - I must get your contact information! You have brought back so many memories that I feel I'm taken back to that magical year you got married! I loved our moms so much - your mother was like my other mother! Mommy Moore! Thank you so much for your memories! Love you so much! Colleen

colleen reed - January 08, 2014 at 10:33 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Virginia A. Baker Reed.*



January 08, 2014 at 04:03 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



colleen reed - January 08, 2014 at 03:31 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Virginia A. Baker Reed.*



January 08, 2014 at 01:20 PM

CJ

“ As a staff member at Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council for 25 years, I had the pleasure of working with Virginia and over time thinking of her as a dear friend. I always loved to see her walk in with that sweet smile, but always with determination to get the job done and do it well. She was a zealot advocate to see that as many girls as possible achieved the Religious Recognition award. I suspect 1000's did just that over the course of her devotion to her job as Council coordinator. I'm not sure they make them like her any more. She was one beautiful special woman. I thank God that our paths crossed. While she will be dearly missed by many, she left a great legacy of love, dedication, faith, perseverance, tenacity . . . and the list goes on. Virginia, you fought the good fight and you have finished this journey. May your spirit soar!

Carolyn Pace Johnson

Carolyn Pace Johnson - January 07, 2014 at 09:57 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Virginia A. Baker Reed.



January 07, 2014 at 06:09 PM

JB

“ I attended many regional and national meetings with Virginia and we always had a wonderful conversation about the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and her family. In my mind, Virginia's "family" was a wide and wonderful group that included so many. I am glad I was part of her "family" for more than 20 years.

Jim Barrette - January 07, 2014 at 05:07 PM

LI

“ Hi Sharron. I am so sorry to learn of your mom's passing. Sending you thoughts and prayers during this time of grief, just as you were there for us during ours. I saw 11:11 this morning, so now I know why... I'm picturing an angel welcoming Gigi home.

Best,

Lisa

lisa - January 07, 2014 at 12:08 PM

MM

“ Virginia Reed was a member of Region 10 Youth Ministry representing the Girls Scouts. We have so many great memories! She was a woman of Faith with a great sense of humor and loved serving the girls scouts. She always new how to cheers up with those Girl Scout cookies she would bring to our meetings. Rest in Peace ...

Marcos Martinez - January 07, 2014 at 12:06 PM



“ I will forever have fond memories of Virginia. She was such an inspiration. I worked with her on the faith-based initiatives at the Girl Scouts for years. She taught me so much! She was a blessing to all who crossed her path and we will all miss her.
Cheryl Palmer O'Brien

Cheryl O'Brien - January 07, 2014 at 10:18 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



sharron reed - January 07, 2014 at 09:17 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



sharron reed - January 07, 2014 at 09:16 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



sharron reed - January 07, 2014 at 09:09 AM

JB

“ *She was always such a pleasant person to visit. Steve and I have great memories of our interaction with this lovely lady. Joyce and Steve Black Topeka, Kansas*



Joyce Black - January 06, 2014 at 09:41 PM

MM

“ I had the wonderful honor to be mentored by Virginia while being on the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting. She inspired every Catholic Girl Scout, the committee and moderators under her leadership. She was humble and it was a joy to be in her presence. Her guidance and loyalty will always be remembered because she touched and inspired so many peoples lifes.

Mary Donna Sicola Mocerì

Mary Donna Mocerì - January 06, 2014 at 08:56 PM

AL

“ Two week old baby Mila (grand daughter to Suzy Hodges Lanier) and myself Audrey had the pleasure of attending Miss Virginia's 90th birthday along with Suzy and are very happy that we got to meet Virginia and got to celebrate her life with family and friends. Our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends for your loss. With much love Bobby, Mila and Audrey Lanier

Audrey, Bobby and mila Lanier - January 06, 2014 at 07:51 PM

CR

Audrey, Bobby and Mila,

We were so grateful to you for attending Gigi's 90th birthday! She would have loved to have gotten time to know and watch her youngest grand-niece grow! We are so happy to have you in our family!

Much love and kisses to Mila and Bobby from us!

Colleen

colleen reed - January 06, 2014 at 08:23 PM

EV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Evelyn Vittone - January 06, 2014 at 07:03 PM

CR

Evelyn would you please email me this photo? What a precious memory I would like to add to her DVD and memory book!

colleen reed - January 07, 2014 at 02:42 AM

SR

Cynthia - I was thinking of mom so much the last few days especially. She loved you and your family SO much! XOXO Sharron

sharron reed - September 10, 2014 at 05:45 PM

EV

“ *Virginia passed on so much wisdom to me and my two daughters. She showed us all grace and faith in the face of whatever challenge was tossed your way. She didn't just know all about Girl Scouts and Catholic topics, but good food and dining, too. When she found out my family was going to DC once a while back, she told me I had to go to Baltimore and eat crab cakes at a restaurant called Timbuktu because it was the best ever. So, feeling that was my assignment, we set out while there and actually called her while eating the crab cakes. We had a great conversation about them and I found another "favorite food". Thank you, Virginia. We miss and love you.*

Evelyn Vittone

Evelyn Vittone - January 06, 2014 at 06:55 PM

CR

Evelyn, I love this story (about Timbuktu) because I have heard this story repeated by almost everyone who she took to Baltimore or who she knew was going to Baltimore! I think it is precious that you actually called her while eating her absolute favorite dish (crab cakes) at her favorite place to eat them!

She was blessed to have had such loving friends as you in Girl Scouting!

Love,

Colleen

colleen reed - January 06, 2014 at 08:26 PM

SR

Evelyn - do you remember when she lived with me how she kept insisting we order crab cakes from Timbuktu and have them overnighted, packed in dry ice? Colleen and I went and got crab cakes and whiskey sours when we finally had to leave the hospital late Saturday. Much love to you and your precious family. Sharron

sharron reed - January 07, 2014 at 09:20 AM

KC

“ My name is Kathleen Moore Covey and Virginia was a dear friend and neighbor to my parents , Art and Mary Ellen Moote. Virginia served as my bridal consultant when they were not fashionable. She helped "guide" mother and I on wedding procedures and the do's and don'ts. If Virginia had not been there from the engagement to my walk down the aisle on my dad's arm, it just would not have been as lovely and meaningful. Thank you dear Virginia for that "gift" you so graciously gave to Bob and I 40 years ago. Tell mom hi for me ??

kathleen Moore Covey - January 06, 2014 at 06:06 PM

CR

Kathleen - that is the most touching tribute to Mom! I will never forget that year (was it summer?) and all the goings-on as a young girl! Your wedding was like a masterpiece!!! Indeed, Virginia and Mary Ellen (Mommy Moore) were besties and growing up with your family and all the other Conifer/Indian Creek gang was like growing up with an extended family! We still are friends to this day! I wish I had gotten in touch with you for Mom's 90th! She never ever ever stopped asking about Mary Ellen - she could not quite remember her passing. I'm sure they are singing and yaking away like the good old days! Love you lots, Colleen

colleen reed - January 06, 2014 at 08:18 PM

SS

*“ What a wonderful woman - she has been my inspiration for years. A funny memory, this past July when I visited with her, she confided that she was going to be 70 on November 26th. I told her that my birthday was in September and I was going to be 70 also so that made me 2 months older than her. She quickly realized we couldn't be the same age and changed it to the correct age of 90. We both had a good laugh. She was so alert that day talking about all our GS friends through the years. I'll always cherish that visit.
Susan Shirley-Menzel*

Susan Shirley-Menzel - January 06, 2014 at 04:30 PM

CR

Susan, I remember that story and how we laughed about it! She still kept telling me she was going to be 70! Well, hey, if you look like your 20 years younger, you ought to go with it!!!

love you lots and lots! thanks for all your cards and visits and your loyal friendship to all of us!

Colleen

colleen reed - January 06, 2014 at 08:21 PM