



Virginia Rebecca Willess

August 7, 1947 - March 8, 2024

Virginia (Ginger) Rebecca Scarbrough Willess, 76, of Hot Springs, Arkansas passed away Friday, March 8th after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Ginger was born on August 7, 1947 to Lonnie Oliver Scarbrough and Wilma Elizabeth Brandon in Porterville, California. She grew up in Paradise, California before moving To Arkansas as a young teen. Ginger moved to Dallas, Texas in her early 20's and met Mel Willess; on November 22, 1968 they married. They had two children, John Thomas Brandon Willess and Lindsay Scarbrough Willess.

Ginger worked at the Dallas Apparel Mart and in the interior design field for many years. She loved her family and always enjoyed having family dinners every night sitting around the dinner table. She loved the Lord and encouraged her children to know and serve Him.

Ginger is survived by her husband, Mel Willess of 55 years; her son, John Thomas Brandon Willess; her grandchildren, Morgan Elizabeth Willess and John Thomas Brandon Willess, Jr.; her daughter, Lindsay Scarbrough Willess Leahy (Ryan) and grandson, Thomas Henry Oliver Leahy.

Pallbearers will be Jason Moses, Brandon Willess, Rob Sample, Ryan Leahy, Doug Miller and David Wylie

The family request donations be made to Genesis Cancer Center and First United Methodist Church of Hot Springs, AR.

Graveside service will be 9:30 AM, Tuesday March 12 at Memorial Gardens (2868 Airport Rd., Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913, service to follow at 11:00 AM Tuesday, March 12 at First United Methodist Church.(1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901).

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 12. 9:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
1100 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Tribute Wall

KT

“ While a student at SMU it was my great fortune to come within the orb of Mel and Ginger. Many Sabbath afternoons were shared at their home--a place of warmth and hospitality.. Even potlucks were done with panache. I recall the rousing discussions on matters of faith and the decline of musical standards in the church. In 1979 I departed Dallas for a teaching position at San Jose State University. Ten years later we met again while I was in town on business. Periodically I think of people that I have met over the years in my travels around the U.S. and Europe--exceptional people who made a difference in my life. Although separated by decades, I have always cherished the memories we made. For some reason my thoughts turned to Mel and Ginger this evening, Googled their names, and was deeply saddened to learn of her passing. Ginger made a difference in this world during her all too short sojourn. My thoughts and prayers are with Mel and the extended family. Keith Thompson, Santa Rosa, CA

Keith Thompson - April 20 at 06:48 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Virginia Rebecca Willess.



March 18, 2024 at 01:16 AM

TB

“ I just found out! I am so sad.

For a while, Ginger lived with us on Westlake in Dallas. I was a tiny girl and she was the glamorous big sister I never had. I would sneak into her room and look at her makeup. I couldn't read, but I would pretend to read Ginger's books and cursive handwriting. Once I traced over one of her notes, thinking I was writing too! I'm sure my mother, Tess Fry, had to apologize often for my sneaking into her room and playing with her stuff.

Mel and Ginger got married in our home. It was so exciting, I wasn't supposed to, but I went into her room as she was getting dressed just to find her sick and almost unable to go down for her wedding! She was in her white wedding gown and looking as beautiful as I thought possible. Everything Ginger did, I wanted to do and be like her.

She and Mel were always there at the Dallas First Church as I grew up. They were such a big part of our lives at that time.

Then after we moved away, we would occasionally get together, but mostly Ginger would call and check up on me. We had so many of the same values and opinions about life. She would talk about her children and my children. We loved worrying about them and sharing all our little brags about them.

It was always so wonderful to hear her voice over the phone and her signature goodbye with that soft lilting "bye!"

I think about Ginger often and will miss her voice and her support. I know she was such a brave woman. And she loved the Lord. That brings me so much comfort and hope that we will again be able to be together in heaven.

We love you Ginger!

Teresa Beem - March 18, 2024 at 01:02 AM

CD

“ About 30 years ago Ginger, Sarah Jane and I joined in prayer interceding for our children ...

I will continue to intercede for the Willess family ... She loved the Lord and always prayed for her children to know and serve Him.

The Lord always connects his people and I know all those years ago, Ginger and your family were sent into our family to love on us... we needed each other all of these years and I will miss her deeply!

*To the Willess family,
know that we are here for you and as I promised Ginger I will continue to be in prayer for all of you...*

*In honor of my sister in Christ
love Connie*

CONNIE DOMINGUE - March 09, 2024 at 04:34 PM