



Gwendolyn Fenninger

December 2, 1940 - August 4, 2020

Gwendolyn Stearns Turnbull Fenninger "Gwen", age 79, died on August 4, 2020 at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center in Mooresville, North Carolina after a twelve year battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was born on December 2, 1940 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Walter Jack Hetherington Turnbull and Vere Stearns Turnbull. She grew up mostly in Boston, spending time both as a high society debutante, and also running through the subway tunnels and hanging out in boxing gyms with her brother. Gwen told fascinating stories of living with her family in the Hotel Somerset where Red Sox legend, Ted Williams, resided during the baseball season. She was a physical education major at Southern Seminary and then spent time teaching remedial reading at an elite boarding school for boys in Massachusetts. After her marriage, she taught an Upward Bound class at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania before moving to North Carolina with her family in 1973.

Gwen was a dedicated Christian with a deep and abiding faith. She lived out her faith by example through her dependable attendance and through her service in many roles at Fair View United Methodist Church. Gwen was a Sunday School teacher and dedicated many hours to review materials and prepare meaningful lessons, served as chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and became a Stephen Minister and Stephen Ministry Leader. She was always grateful for the support and care from her Fair View Church family.

Gwen was a dynamic leader in the real estate business for thirty-five years, a consummate, well-dressed professional serving as Broker-in-Charge for Allen Tate Company for most of her career. She served as a role model and mentor for many, many young agents. Devoting countless hours to research and study effective leadership, training and business development, Gwen shared that knowledge with all of her agents. Her leadership was recognized in 1999 when she received the Business Journal's "Women in Business" Award. She was also named one of the country's most powerful women in real estate by the National Relocation & Real Estate magazine, and was actively involved in the North Carolina Association of Realtors.

In essence, Gwen was a wonderful teacher in all aspects of her life, through her church, through her career and in her personal life. With many talents and hobbies, she was foremost an avid reader and passionate, zealous birder. She passed on her love and knowledge of birding to many others. Gwen had a wicked sense of humor and was infamous for her jokes and pranks, in particular her April Fools' Day pranks. She possessed a fierce competitive spirit, tackling every challenge with tenacity. While she took her job and her role in leadership seriously, she had a remarkable sense of humility and the ability to laugh at herself. She was a wonderful athlete - she could throw a ball with strength and accuracy, sailed off Cape Cod in the summers, and could handle a punching bag like a born boxer.

She was predeceased by her parents and a brother, Guy Hobart Hetherington Turnbull. She is survived by her husband, Peter Laurence Fenninger. They married on June 18, 1966 and enjoyed fifty-four years together. She is also survived by her children, Michael Turnbull Fenninger (Cyndy) of Mooresville, North Carolina and Hilary Hobart Fenninger Broadway (Greg) of Cornelius, North Carolina and by her sister-in-law, Connie Dziok Turnbull, of Colchester, Connecticut. She doted on her three granddaughters, Jordan Stearns Fenninger, Jessica Leigh Fenninger and Sydney Lauren Broadway, and was an active "Nani" in their lives. Nani supported them in all they did and served as one of their biggest cheerleaders. The family expresses their appreciation to Melissa Freeze and Cindy Houchins for their care and service to Gwen.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home in Mooresville, North Carolina on Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. with visitation of the family after the service. Social distancing measures will be observed and a live stream of the service will also be available. For those who are unable to attend the service, you may go to the following link for the live stream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC864hAs96dTRLVVL1la0Qlw/videos?view=2&flow=list>

Donations in Gwen's memory can be made to the Carolina Raptor Center, 6000 Sample Road, Huntersville, North Carolina 28078 or to Fair View United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 27, Mt. Mourne, North Carolina 28123.

The Neptune Society and Cavin-Cook Funeral Home are serving Gwen's family.

Events

AUG **Memorial Service** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Cavin-Cook Chapel

494 E. Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC, US, 28115

Comments



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February 14 at 11:24 AM



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February 14 at 11:04 AM



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February 14 at 11:03 AM



“ Pete, Mike, Hilary and family. The service for Gwen was beautifully done, as was her obituary. All who spoke made it clear how special Gwen was to so many people. It was a joyful tribute to her life. Laura and I are so glad we were able to attend in person. The loss of a wife and mother is very hard, but we hope that the many memories you have of Gwen can sustain you and ease the grief over time.

Randy and Laura Fenninger

Randy Fenninger - August 18, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Pete and family, Thank you for sharing the beautiful memorial service for Gwen. We both watched. Appreciated all the words, music and knowing that the family could be together for the service. Our sympathy to you all. PA and Dot Harman

Dorothy Harman - August 15, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ I was about 13 years old when Gwen married my cousin Pete. I remember the wedding and thinking that she was the most beautiful bride I had ever seen!! Her beauty is still everywhere.

Louise Bower - August 14, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ A lovely tribute to Gwen. Thank you for sharing her story. May fond memories bring comfort now to all the Fenningers and Broadways.
Fondly, Anne Leader (cousin via Louise Fenninger & Kate Sayen)

Anne Leader - August 13, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ Prayers for peace and comfort. You have our deepest sympathy . South Iredell Class of 1984 . Go Vikings!

Vikings - August 12, 2020 at 10:14 PM