



## Marion Dukes

February 13, 1926 - March 6, 2019

Marion Ruth Dukes, age 93 of Rowlett, TX, passed away March 6, 2019. She was born February 13, 1926, in Evanston, IL, to Thorley and Marion Gladys (Phelps) von Holst. Marion grew up in a suburb called Beverly Hills on the southwest side of Chicago. Her father introduced her to opera and classical music, which became lifetime passions. As a child, her mother faithfully drove her to piano lessons and by her teen years she was playing at a concert pianist level. She had all the requisite talent to pursue a performance career, but opted instead for a more normal family life. Marion loved the popular crooners of the 40's like Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. She herself also had a beautiful alto singing voice.

As a girl and young teen, Marion was active and athletic and spent summers at camp learning skills like swimming, diving, horseback riding and archery. Her father took his family on summer vacations to Colorado, where Marion developed a love for the mountains and the city of Boulder. She determined to go to college there in hopes of meeting and marrying a "mountain man." She met one in Phil Dukes, newly home from WWII service overseas, who was also attending the University of Colorado. Marion graduated from the U of C with a degree in English and taught elementary school for a while. However, Phil's mechanical engineering degree led to jobs in the industrial Chicago area, so back to the Midwest they went. They married and ultimately settled into a home three blocks from Lake Michigan in Gary, IN.

Marion became a full-time mom and successfully raised three children. She would patiently read aloud to the kids with perfect narration and endless enthusiasm. Relative to the rest of the suburban moms, she was a strict disciplinarian. Meals were family time and dinner was at 6:00pm sharp every night, with table manners and full participation in family discussions required. She was strict, yes, but always kind and never unreasonable in her expectations of the kids.

Mom sang in the Marquette Park Methodist Church choir, participated in the League of Women Voters, was a substitute teacher, an administrative assistant at Methodist Hospital

in Gary, a darned good bridge player and stayed busy transporting the kids to lessons and activities. The Dukes family also took vacations to Colorado each year. The kids still remember mom's perfect "jack-knife" dives into the motel pools on those vacations. After she and Phil launched their children, they hosted many a family reunion. Mom was beloved by her children and their spouses and her many grand and great grandchildren. She offered an ice cream cone on the porch to any and all takers. Although her final years were affected by dementia, she was able to live out her whole life at home under the full-time care of her daughters, Barbara and Carolyn. Through it all, she remained gracious, kind, thanked everyone profusely and was content doing crossword puzzles, coloring, watching old movies, and listening to opera and the old crooners, especially Andy Williams. Mom was wonderful company to whomever sat by her on the couch. She enjoyed her food, her naps, a "brilliant blue sky," sunshine through the windows, and would offer up lovely descriptions of everything around her. She held endless appreciation of the lights on the Christmas tree, French silk pie, and did we mention ice cream? We are so lucky to have had a mom like ours.

Left to remember her with love are her sister-in-law: Carol von Holst and partner Bill Berends; daughters: Barbara Rose and Carolyn Linehan and husband Ray; son: Tom Dukes and wife Cathy; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband: Phillip J Dukes; her parents: Thorley and Marion von Holst; her brothers: William and wife Betty and Edward; her sister: Doris Williams and husband Chester; and grandson: Kevin Rose.

No services are planned.

# Comments

---



“ 159 files added to the album Memories Album



**Tom Dukes** - March 16 at 02:30 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Tom Dukes** - March 14 at 02:09 PM