



Mary Michele Ponza Hopkins

December 6, 1919 - February 27, 2017

Mary Michele Ponza Hopkins, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother for a posterity of about 100 lived almost a century. She died on 27 February 2017 at age 97 in St George, Utah.

She was born 6 December 1919 in Glenwood, Santa Cruz County, California on her uncle's ranch. Soon her Italian immigrant parents established Ponza Ranch in Soquel. Giovanni Antonio Ponza and Maria Madalena Tolosano both came from San Michele Prazzo in northern Italy.

As a young woman she moved to Redwood City, California for work opportunities at a Bakery which led to her meeting Joseph Eugene (Gene) Hopkins her future husband. They married in 1940 in Capitola, California, with their service being performed by Gene's brother, Bernard James Hopkins, a Catholic Priest. After a few years of young married life, Gene was drafted into WWII so Mary returned to Soquel for the years of his deployment. Their daughter was born the day Gene had left for the European Front.

As Mary records in her Life History, Gene's return was the most joyful day ever! They returned to Redwood City, added 2 sons to their family, and prospered. Mary loved being a homemaker and worked at that prospect, making her home a place of respite, joy, and delicious home cooked meals.

After a few years Mary felt the need to find religious training for her young family and began learning about various faiths before being baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. That decision was a tremendous “game changer” for the good. As members of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, she and Gene have traveled the world, serving as missionaries in the Philippine Islands and loving people of all cultures.

She leaves a legacy of love and faith, a simple yet deep faith that was shown in her compassion and charity to many over the years. One of her mottos was

Men’s work is from Sun to Sun;
Women’s work is never done!

She lived by this, always serving, seeking, and reaching out to others. Even in recent years when her memory was cloudy, she was gracious, kind and compassionate. Her expressions of love to others emulated the Saviors.

She and Gene have 18 Grandchildren and 66 Great-Grandchildren who continue in the faith to which she led. We love her and anticipate meeting her in the Spirit World. She is survived by her husband of over 76 years, Gene Hopkins, and children: Jeanne (David) Macdonald, Joe (Sophia) Hopkins and Jon (Andria) Hopkins with 18 Grandchildren and 66 Great-Grandchildren. We thank those at River Road Beehive Home for 3 years of kind service and friendship.

Funeral Services will be held 4 March 2017 at 1 o’clock in the Foothills Ward Chapel, 2079 East 2450 South, St George, Utah. Visitation will be at 12-noon prior at the same location.

Family and friends are invited to share condolences online at www.SerinitySt

G.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home.

The following is included at Gene's request:

Alzheimer's Request

Do not ask me to remember
Don't try to make me understand
Let me rest and know you're with me
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your concept
I'm sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you,
To be with me at all cost.

Do not lose your patience with me
Do not scold or curse or cry,
I can't help the way I'm acting,
I can't be different though I try.

Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me till my life is gone.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 4. 1:00 AM (MT)

Foothills Ward Chapel
2079 East 2450 South
St George, UT 84790

Visitation

MAR 4. 12:00 PM (MT)

Foothills Ward Chapel
2079 East 2450 South
St George, UT 84790

Tribute Wall

AC

“*Mary and Gene have blessed my life repeatedly. When my parents first joined the church, it was Mary and Gene who befriended them and helped them understand the gospel and remain active. As a young boy who loved rocks, Mary brought me back Obsidian from a vacation she and Gene took. She was always so thoughtful, kind and gracious. On the way back to AZ after attending my sister's funeral in the Sacramento area, our car broke down in Santa Cruz. Mary and Gene opened their home to us and our 4 children for 3 days while it was being repaired. While there we learned how to make applesauce toast and play "Kings in the Corner". Mary had a way of making things magical and all who knew her immediately felt valued and loved. She will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to her family and all who know and love her. We are grateful for the knowledge that we will see her again in a great reunion after this life. She has been an angel to us in this life and we know she will be a guardian angel to her posterity until that sweet reunion made possible by our Lord and Savior who she loves and emulated so well in this life.*

Adam Carlini - April 02, 2017 at 10:35 AM

DF

“*David & Ann Kunze, Trish & Lee Barrus & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Michele Ponza Hopkins.*



David & Ann Kunze, Trish & Lee Barrus & Family - March 03, 2017 at 06:41 PM

FL

“ Gene&Mary were always so nice to me had lots of fun & learned to swim.Loved it and both of you Frankie

Frank locatelli - March 03, 2017 at 10:34 AM

SS

“ Loved Grandma Mary! She was an extraordinary woman whose heart was big enough to make even "bonus" grandchildren feel loved and important. She represents so much of kindness, hospitality, and service. I am grateful to have known her, and happy that she is a part of my magical childhood memories.
Sherianne (Stone) Schow

Sherianne Schow - March 02, 2017 at 07:20 PM



“ On behalf of the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association, I would like to share our condolences for Mary. She attended our picnics, shared her Soquel story and was a contributor to our cause. We appreciate both of you and have missed you since you left. Judy Parsons, President

Judy Parsons - March 01, 2017 at 02:43 PM



We want to share our condolences for Mary. When we first moved into the house they built on Hidden Valley, Mary sent delicious baked goods and she and Gene were very welcoming to us. We have carried this kindness with us for the last 20 years. We keep in memory the wonderful historic stories they shared with us while they lived up the road.
We send our heartfelt condolences to Gene and to the family.
Sincerely, Marianna and Freddie Mejia

Marianna Mejia - March 12, 2017 at 04:25 PM