



## Virginia Drace Swanson

June 12, 1925 - December 12, 2011

Virginia Drace Swanson died December 12, 2011 at her residence. Virginia was born June 12, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Virgil and Mary Drace. Her family moved to Gallup, New Mexico, when she was five years old and to Espanola, New Mexico when she was nine years old. When she was in junior high, she returned to Gallup and lived with her paternal grandmother, who ran a hotel. Virginia graduated from Gallup High in 1942, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from New Mexico State University in 1948 and a Master's degree from Colorado State University in 1977. Virginia married Vern Swanson in 1947. They had three children, Susan, 1949, Vern Jr. 1952 and John, 1956. The family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1956. The family went to Ames, Iowa for two years where Virginia began her teaching career. The family returned to Fort Collins and Virginia continued her teaching career. She taught in the Poudre R-1 school system for 27 years. The last two years she developed and implemented a keyboarding program for elementary schools. When Virginia retired, she "did all the things she could not do when she was teaching," She enjoyed her family, especially the grandchildren, friends, played golf, was an active member of Chapter G of PEO, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ft. Collins Country Club, bridge clubs, book club, and in a health club program. She was a big fan of the Denver Broncos and CSU Rams. Survivors include her daughter Susan Wells of Fort Collins, sons Vern B., Jr. of Denver and John D. of Brisbane, Australia. Six grandchildren Jono and his wife Caitlin of San Francisco, California , Meghan and Joey of Denver;

Brooke, Jack, and David of Australia. Wonderful in-law children, Robbie of Denver, Sherri of Australia and Gordan Wells of Fort Collins. Step-grandchildren are Matthew Wells and his wife Stephanie, son Wesley of Ft. Collins Aubrey Baar her husband, Chris and daughters, Vivian and Lucia of Atlanta, Georgia. A Memorial Service will be held Friday, December 16 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524 or The Children's Clinic, 114 Bristlecone Dr., Fort Collins, CO, 80524.

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ Please accept our sympathy on your loss of Virginia. She was such a special and fun person. It was an honor to know her and Vern through the Animal Sciences Department at CSU - she was always the life of the party and Vern a great "straight man". May your memories of all the happy times help you now with your loss - Jean and Dennis

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**Dennis and Jean Lamm** - December 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Thinking of you in your time of grief. All our sympathy and love to you. Glad you are celebrating her life with her favorite things! Deb & Al

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**Deb & Al Sears** - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Susan, I am so sorry to hear of Virginia's passing. I always enjoyed the way that Virginia answered her phone, I'll never forget that! My most sincere sympathy to you and your family.

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**Debi Allenson** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I was so sad to read of Virginia's death. In the years that we worked together at Botz, her delightful and sometimes wicked sense of humor made lunchtime a delight. I also enjoyed the occasions that I joined her and buddy Dorothy for margaritas at one of their favorite haunts. She was a vivacious and wonderful gal and I will remember her with great fondness. I will be out of town and unable to attend the memorial service. I am sorry not to be able to pay my respects and I extend my sympathy to Susan and all of her family. Sincerely,  
Toni Farquhar

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**Toni Farquhar** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ My condolences to Virginia's family. I too mourn her passing and want you to know although we were not close, I remember Virginia as a strong woman, an excellent teacher and a good friend to a large group of colleagues. I will continue to remember her and in my mind I still can hear her voice and see her smile.

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**jane Neth Thompson** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Dear Susan, Topper and John, I am so very sorry to hear the news of your mom's passing. I send to you my deepest condolences. I just received the news today, otherwise I would be there with you all on Friday, to celebrate your mom's life and bless her on her new journey. I have wonderful, fond childhood memories of your mom. What a spirited, strong, caring woman—and master tortilla maker! Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you today and the days ahead. Love, Diane

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**Diane Burch Evans** - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Virginia's passing. She was a super lady. My prayers and thoughts are with her family.

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**Jimmie Drace Bowman** - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Susan - I'm so very sorry to hear about your Mom. She was so blessed to have you close by, and lucky to have such a great daughter!! Lots of hugs, Robin & Fred

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**Robin Castor** - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Susie, I was greatly saddened to hear of your mom's passing. She was a great woman and always fun to be around. I'm glad I had the pleasure of knowing her. We all will miss "Niney". My heart goes out to you and your family during these difficult times! Sincerely,  
John

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**John C Smith** - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ We want to offer our condolences to Virginia's family. We didn't visit CO this summer because Mel had a stroke in May. We have many happy memories including the DEER FAMILY in our yard now.

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**Melvin & Joyce Nieberger** - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Virginia's family. We enjoyed knowing Virginia in many ways over the years. We have special fond memories of time with her here in Sun City Grand. Sincerely,

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**Jerry and Kathy French** - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Susan, Topper and John, We offer our deepest sympathy to you. Aunt Virginia was truly a remarkable person loved by everyone she met. She was also a true character and the life of a party. Her smile made everyone feel welcome and at ease. Aunt Virginia will always have a very special place in our hearts. Please note that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. Love to all Lou and Steve Bradshaw, Doug, Patsy and Matt Drace James and Janice Hudnall

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janice hunter hudnall - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM