



Frances Helen Salyer

November 10, 1918 - July 19, 2018

1918 - 2018

Frances Helen Pyeatt Salyer, former resident of Olney, Texas, died in Marysville, California, on July 19, 2018.

Born on November 10, 1918, in Cleburne, Texas, just as World War I was ending, Helen was the only daughter of six children born to Leonard Ewing and Minnie Lou Hill Pyeatt. Helen grew up in Olney and, after graduating from Olney High School, attended Weatherford College and Texas Wesleyan College (B.A. 1940). She returned to the area to take her first teaching job in a two-room schoolhouse in Anarene, Texas.

Always ready for adventure and anxious to do her part during World War II, Helen joined the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. She returned on a ten-day furlough to Olney to marry her best friend, Oswald ("Oz") Bryan Salyer, a resident of Newcastle, Texas, and a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, on March 26, 1945, at the First United Methodist Church.

After the war, the Salyers left Texas as Oz became a career Navy chaplain, a job that took them all over the country and to Japan. Luckily, they both loved to travel and made it their goal to see as much of the world as possible. Helen threw herself into the demanding life of a Navy chaplain's wife, making many life-long friends. She also continued her own career as a teacher and reading specialist. She loved the written word, a book and crossword puzzle always at hand.

After retiring from the Los Angeles Unified School District in the 1970s, Helen was busier than ever, taking up writing, painting and volunteering for the adult literacy program. She was also the best mom, mother-in-law, and grandmother ever, welcoming all into the family.

She had four children, (Kim, Mark, Scott and Lucy), eleven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Helen moved to Prestige Assisted Living in Marysville, California, in 2003 to be closer to family, her husband having died in 1983. While Helen's memory faded as dementia set in, she kept her wicked humor, good manners, and love of singing up to the very end. She was a woman of great warmth, intelligence, and strength, brightening the lives of all those

fortunate to have known her. To paraphrase a line from one of her favorite songs, "Red River Valley," we will miss her bright eyes and sweet smile.

She will be buried alongside her husband at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

Comments



“ Sincere condolences from the members of the Women Marines Association. “If the Army and the Navy ever looked on Heaven’s Scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines.” (3rd stanza of the Marines Hymn). Take comfort in knowing your beloved Marine has left this life to take up her rightful place in Heaven’s detachment.

The Women Marines Association is dedicated to preserving the history of our veterans. We continue to build a diverse collection of uniforms, photos, papers and other artifacts donated by our members and their families. If you have items you would like to know more about or would like to have your loved one memorialized by donating items to the collection, our Historian, Nancy Wilt, would be happy to speak with you. She can be reached at: Nancy Wilt, WMA Historian, Curator of the Women of the Corps Collection, PO Box 633, Hunt, TX 78024, Phone: 830-238-3893, or niwilt@aol.com.

Eileen Skahill

National Chaplain

Chaplain@womenmarines.org

Eileen M Skahill - September 25, 2018 at 12:53 PM