

# Dorothy Ziskin

1924 - 2015



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Dorothy passed away peacefully on January 16, 2015, after 90 glorious years. Cherished by her family and many friends, she will be missed and remembered as vivacious, intelligent, indomitable, and kind – a remarkable woman with an infectious laugh who celebrated life every single day.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, to Clarence and Anna Schaefer during the "Roaring Twenties," Dorothy came of age during the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II that followed. Through these challenging times, her character was forged by strength of her family and the core values of her Midwestern upbringing, which sustained and empowered her throughout her life.

Dorothy attended Old Orchard Elementary and DeVilbiss High School in Toledo, then went on to the University of Michigan and became a registered nurse. She then joined the Army Air Force where she attained the rank of lieutenant.

While stationed in Tampa, FL, Dorothy met Al Ziskin, an Air Force pilot and World War II veteran, at McDill Air Force Base. They were married in 1953 and settled in Palm Springs, CA, where they started a family and Al launched a successful business career. In 1964, Dorothy, Al, and their five children moved to Rancho Santa Fe, CA.

In addition to her busy family life, Dorothy devoted her considerable energies to the Audubon Society, Head Start, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Rancho Coastal Humane Society, where she spoke to grade school classes about the importance of being kind to animals. She also served as chairwoman of the Altar Guild for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Del Mar, CA, for over 25 years.

Dorothy was a lifelong learner and voracious reader with an expansive memory who loved books, poetry, music, movies, the theater, and travel, and an avid swimmer who swam a mile nearly every day at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club in Solana Beach, CA.

Dorothy is survived her children, Michael, Suzanne, Barbara and Peter; grandchildren, David Watts, Kelly Gray, Sarah Ziskin and Rachel Ziskin; and brother, John Schaefer. She is preceded in death by her husband, Alvin; daughter; Patricia; and sister, Barbara.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in Rancho Santa Fe Review on Feb. 25, 2015.

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**4 entries**

March 1, 2015

I have such wonderful memories of Dottie...She was so warm, wise and loving! I always had so much fun at the Ziskin home!She was a great Mother to her kids and very tolerant of us hanging at the house day in and day out.. she was also so kind to animals and took such good care of their needs...sunscreen on Snowflake's ears...saving bacon fat for Wolfie's diet..Volunteering at the animal shelter...A truly good person! My thoughts and prayers are with her family. With Love, Rosie Gross

March 1, 2015

My deepest sympathy on your loss. May memories of her always bring smiles to your faces and comfort to your hearts. During this difficult time, please know that God is a refuge and strength. (Psalms 46: 1)

**S D**

February 27, 2015

You have my condolences. I am sorry for your great loss, the pain of losing a loved one can be unbearable. It is comforting to know that God will one day put a end to death and we will be able to see our loved ones again. May the God of all comfort be with you during this difficult time.

February 27, 2015

My condolences to the family during this sad time. (Psalm 18:2) ~ Nicky

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