



Cecelia "Cel" Virginia Elkins

March 22, 1931 - August 31, 2018

Surrounded by family, Cecelia 'Cel' Virginia Elkins went to be with her Heavenly Father on Aug 31, 2018. She was born on March 22, 1931 in Chicago, IL the first of two children to Joseph and Virginia Bukauski. Growing up on the south side of Chicago, she graduated from Lourdes Catholic High School in 1948, volunteered at a Catholic hospital, worked at Cupid's ice cream store and then at Bell Telephone in their accounting department. At 17, she moved in with her best friend Lou Lesko and her family. In 1950, the Lesko family moved to Los Angeles, CA bringing Cel with them. Cel was able to make a job transfer and continued to work for Bell Telephone in LA.

Through friends Natalie and Joe Smith she met Doyle who was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. They married in Nov 1953, a marriage that produced three wonderful daughters, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Doyle and Cel bought their first home in La Mirada, CA in 1958, moved to Roppongi, Japan in 1968 for two years, back to La Mirada until 1976, then to La Habra Heights, CA. In 1998, they made the move to Prescott, AZ, then Dewey, AZ in 2016.

Cel was a homemaker while her girls were growing up. She loved dressing her girls in matching outfits on holidays and designing custom Halloween costumes. She occasionally worked part time at a women's dress shop, and for about 10 years at H&R Block during tax season as a receptionist or tax preparer.

Cel had a love of service to her community. She volunteered at Whittier

Hospital for 22 years, doing normal hospital volunteer work and making Christmas decorations for their annual fundraising boutique. She managed Judy's Bobby Sox softball team, and was a Girl Scout leader with her best friend Flo. After their move to AZ, Cel volunteered for years with the Guild of Prescott Fine Arts.

The family loved to camp when the girls were young, tent camping at Kings Canyon, Sequoia, Yosemite, Big Sur, Mammoth Lakes, and Bass Lake, often with friends Mary and Bill Leightner and family. Later they moved up to RV'ing and traveled over much of the US and Canada, convoying with friends Flo and Norm Nordin. In 2007, they and the Nordins bought lots across the street from each other at an RV resort near Palm Springs, CA, parked their 5th wheels, and became snowbirds.

Gardening and visiting with neighbors and friends were always important past-times for Cel. She loved to cook and try new recipes! Whether it was indoors or a BBQ by the pool, she loved to entertain! She loved Bunco and after moving to Prescott Cel and some neighbor gals formed a Bunco group that still plays.

Cel is survived by her husband Doyle of Dewey, AZ and her three daughters; Karen Johnson (Larry) of Menifee, CA; Judy Smith of Woodland, WA; and Sandy Elkins of Grand Junction, CO, and by four grandchildren; Angie (Nick), Jason, Brian (Sara), and Hunter, and by four great-grandchildren; Exodus, Peyton, Kaitlyn, and Preston.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Larry Bukauski, and one grandson Corey Johnson.

A rosary and funeral mass will be held at St. Germaine's Catholic Church in Prescott Valley on Thursday, Sept 27, 2018 at 10am. A luncheon will follow at the church.

Interment will be at Camp Navajo Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bellemont, AZ on Friday, Sept 28, 2018 at 11am.

The family would like to thank Mayo Clinic for her excellent cancer care and

Good Samaritan Society for her comforting hospice care. The family is grateful for any memorial donations in her name to the American Cancer Society for lung cancer research.

Arrangements entrusted to Sunrise Funeral Home in Prescott Valley.

Cemetery Details

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo

14317 Veterans Drive
Bellemont, AZ 86015

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

SEP 27. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Saint Germaine Catholic Church
7997 E. Dana Drive
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Burial

SEP 28. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo
14317 Veterans Drive
Bellemont, AZ 86015

Tribute Wall



“ *Cecelia "Cel" Virginia Elkins*

January 30, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Driving out to Arizona thinking of the many memories. My brothers and I spent many of summer days swimming and having a great time at my grandparents awesome house in La Habra Heights. My grandma always had sun tea brewing in the window and great snacks and dinners prepared for us. We loved Christmas at my grandparents. Each of us kids always had piles of gifts in front of us. Let's just say my grandma went overboard on the gifts and as little kids we loved it! I remember sitting on my grandma's bathroom counter as a small child and watching her put on her makeup and so her hair. She loved her makeup and having her hair done. Even in her last days she wanted her makeup on and her hair done. She was always so beautiful!*

I'll miss you grandma. I hope you're having a blast in heaven! Hopefully they have some good hair salons up there!

See you again one day.

Love you,

Angie

Angie Smalley - September 26, 2018 at 06:32 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Cecelia "Cel" Virginia Elkins.*



September 26, 2018 at 02:46 AM



“ *As a child I remember Aunt Cel's big smile she always seemed so happy! She will not be forgotten! "God be with you tell we meet again"* ”

Steven Elkins - September 22, 2018 at 08:05 PM

JS

“ *Cel, We Love You*

Picture this; August of 1952 in Hollywood, California, a group of Airman from Edwards Air Force Base were at the local USO Sunday afternoon dance. One Airman, Joe Smith, met a girl, Natali, and they became an item. On the weekend following, Joe and some buddies got together with Natali and some of her girlfriends. Natali, the matchmaker, had just met a single girl who had come from Chicago. She invited her to come with us. Well, as fates allowed, Cel met Doyle and the rest is history. They were married in 1953. Joe and Natali married in 1954, and moved to a new little town called La Mirada. Cel & Doyle were living in an apartment in Inglewood and came out to visit us. They already had a baby and decided they needed a house. They liked La Mirada. Not only were we close friends, now we were almost neighbors. We spent holidays together and the kids went to neighboring schools. Cel and Doyle had 3 beautiful girls that she dressed on the holidays and what a treat to see their family.

Life went on. Cel and Doyle moved to Japan for two yrs. We continued to stay in touch, besides we were care takers of their house, their cat 'Pixie' and their turtle 'Tooty'. They came home from Japan in '70 and moved to nearby La Habra Hts in '76. There were weddings and

Parties and many get-togethers. They moved to Prescott in '98 and we still got together, but not as often as we would have liked too. In 2016 we spent one last Holiday together, a wonderful Christmas Eve. Cel was recovering from cancer, and we were hoping there would be many more get-togethers. They moved to Dewey to make life easier for them. Cel's cancer returned, and you know the rest.

Cel we miss you, Doyle don't forget us.

Joe and Natali

Joe Smith - September 22, 2018 at 04:51 PM

AE

“ I was 10 when Cel married my brother, I always enjoyed spending time with them and the girls. In 2016 Larry & I parked our travel trailer in their side yard for the summer. We had a great time cooking together and playing games wher Cel would pretend to cry when she lost and laugh when she won.
She will be greatly missed as my sister and friend.



Alice Ence - September 22, 2018 at 03:19 PM

JL

“ My memories of Cel are all over. I spent many a time in their home growing up across the street. I remember the first time I had ice tea, (who drank cold tea???)
She was generous to host a BBQ shower for my wedding party and then a baby shower. And all the holiday decorations she made for the fundraiser for Whittier Hospital. I never knew one could make such things. And her cooking, I have dreams about her brisket, so good. she will be missed.
Julie Leightner

Julie Leightner - September 21, 2018 at 09:07 PM

ML

“ Cel would walk up the street to my house on Longleaf in the late afternoon. We would share our day and was a great supportive friend.

Going camping and worrying about our hair of all things. I brought along white terry cloth hats which we wore during the camping trip. We thought we looked good.

Mary Leightner

Mary Leightner - September 21, 2018 at 09:00 PM

JG

“ Cel has been a part of my life for the last 55 years (since I was 7). I met Judy (Cel and Doyle's middle daughter) in 2nd grade and we've been best of friends ever since. Cel has been that other mother throughout my life and she jointly shared so many things with my mom, one of her best friends. From their involvement as our Brownie/Girl Scout troop Leaders; class field trip chaperones; Bobby Sox Softball team Managers; etc., then as we got older, she was there planning and hosting my wedding shower and my baby shower. Our families got together for many happy times at Grammy and Grampy's house; along with so many birthdays and holidays that our families shared together. When I was younger, Cel was that other Mom, but as an adult, she became my friend. I have so many fond memories of Cel but my most treasured memory is that throughout my Mom's life, Cel was right there by her side as her dearest friend.

Janet Gray - September 19, 2018 at 01:01 PM

JG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Gray - September 18, 2018 at 08:59 PM

CS

“ I was so glad that I got to know Cel and know that she will be missed by many and will always be in your heart and memories. She will be missed.

Cathy Smith

Cathy Smith - September 18, 2018 at 07:28 PM

DR

“ Cel was a wonderful neighbor for many years here in Prescott. She had a wonderful, creative talent for flower arranging and crafting. She will be missed.

Doris and Jim Robak - September 17, 2018 at 05:14 PM

SE

“ As I was scrambling after work to figure out what to cook for dinner tonight, I thought of my Mom. She loved to eat, cook, and try new recipes. First thing on her mind when she woke up was coffee, then breakfast, then planning dinner. My first thoughts in the morning are far from planning dinner! Why didn't my Mom's love of planning meals rub off on me?

I miss you Mom! All my love, your daughter Sandy.

Sandy Elkins - September 11, 2018 at 09:39 PM