

ORDER OF SERVICE



REFLECTIONS

READING OF THE OBITUARY

Earl Mathis

RITE OF COMMITTAL

Father Joseph Yaeger



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the family of Virginia Gimpisao Rosos Burch, are eternally grateful for the many expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness extended during our time of bereavement and for your presence at this homegoing service.



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In Loving Memory
of

Virginia Gimpisao Rosos Burch

Sunrise: January 23, 1940 ~ Sunset: October 27, 2021



Wednesday, November 3, 2021
1:00 PM

Jones Cemetery
795 Rico Road
Clarkton, North Carolina

OBITUARY

Virginia Gimpisao Rosos, "Virgie," was born on January 23, 1940, in Cebu City, Philippines. She was the only child of Lozaro B. Rosos and Angeles Gimpisao. Lozaro, her father, was killed during World War II fighting the Japanese. Angeles Gimpisao died of natural causes. Virgie's grandmother, Lola Posay, was a huge part of her upbringing, and she would constantly, lovingly, talk about the experiences and lessons she learned for her.

Virgie grew up in the outskirts of Cebu in a community with no electricity or running water. All the children had machetes and spent a lot of time exploring the surrounding jungle. She would often tell a story about waking up with a large, black constrictor snake on her head and remaining still until it slithered away. All the children went to school through the Catholic Church, which was managed by strict nuns who clearly weren't light on the rod to encourage discipline and focus on their studies.

Virgie married Thomas "Tom" Eugene Mathis in 1966. Tom was in the United States Air Force (USAF), and was stationed at Clark AFB in the Philippines. Tom's military service had the couple living in North Carolina, Southern California, Colorado, Spain, and Northern California. During this time, the couple had two children, Carla (b.1968), and Thomas (b.1971). Virgie was a very sociable person, and every place they were stationed she would make friends with a broad spectrum of people. Many of her friends were Asian spouses (Japanese, Korean, Thai, and other Filipinos) of military servicemen. They would often have gatherings to make and cook large meals and have a party with all neighbors.

Tom retired in 1984 from the Beale Air Force Base, and the couple purchased a house nearby in Linda, California. At this time, the marriage had some challenges and the couple agreed to divorce. Virgie remained in the home and continued to raise her two children. Virgie was no stranger to hard work and often had multiple jobs. She was a cashier at the bowling lane on Beale AFB and was contracted to teach an aerobics class for service members who struggled with weight management. A core facet of Virgie's life was her ability to engage people, network, and be the center of the community.

OBITUARY CONTINUED

After both children graduated from high school and left the home, Virgie moved to a smaller apartment in Linda, California. She also started a new job as the Activities Director at a nursing home. Virgie loved making the facility lively and personally connecting with the residents. During this period Virgie met Walter Burch and re-married. Walter and Virgie lived in Wheatland, CA. Virgie survived Walter and remained in their home until she decided to move to Clarkton, NC in 2011.

Virgie returned to the Mathis homestead, a place she had lived in the 1960s shortly after the birth of her first child. During her first stay, she forged a strong bond with her in-laws, who became her second parents. She also bonded with the immediate and extended family, as well as the local community. Throughout her many travels, she retained strong memories of the rural landscape, the culture, and the values of the people that mirrored much of her childhood experiences in the Philippines. Upon her return, she quickly established herself as a full-fledged member of the community.

Virgie was a devout Catholic, yet she never hesitated to visit and serve at local churches of numerous Protestant denominations. Well into her seventies, Virgie continued to provide exercise and dance classes to community centers, retirement homes, and fitness centers. Her love of line dancing kept her busy each weekend at various venues in the area. She also loved to garden, fish, cook, sew, and share her many passions with others. Her open and friendly personality allowed her to easily make friends and acquaintances across multiple cultures, where she would not allow any barrier of class or race to deter her humanity. That is a key reason she was loved by many.

Virgie is survived by her two children, Carla Mathis of California, and Thomas Mathis (Jack, Colin, and Amy) of Springfield, Va; six brothers-in-law, one sister-in-law, and a host of extended family and friends.