



International Society of Hypnosis - ISH
XVIII International Congress

HYPNOSIS AND NEUROSCIENCE
Clinical implications of the new mind-body paradigms

Hosted by
SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI IPNOSI and SOCIETA' ITALIANA MILTON ERICKSON

www.ish-web.org

Rome, Italy
September 22-27
2009



REGISTRATION and INFORMATION
Società Italiana di Ipnosi
Via Tagliamento 25 - 00198 Roma, Italy
Phone and Fax: +39.06.8548205 - - E-Mail: ipnosi@tin.it WEB: www.hypnosis.it

www.hypnosis.it

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

I N M E M O R I A M

Melba Reis Vickery *Jan 28, 1925 – Feb 28, 2009*

Melba Vickery died in her adopted hometown of Sierra Vista, Arizona. Melba had worked closely with Milton Erickson since the 1960s and remained a dedicated supporter of his work throughout her life. Born in Granite City, Illinois Melba joined the Sisters of Divine Providence immediately after high school and became known as Sister Teresa. Her graduation from St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing led her to becoming a nurse-anesthetist in 1958. Her soothing voice and manner of speaking were invaluable skills in the operating room, and she became fascinated with the ways that positive suggestions could enhance patient recovery.

In the early 1960's Milton Erickson taught a course in medical and dental hypnosis that she attended. She became lifelong student, attesting to the powers of hypnosis in her work and in her own life. Joining the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis and organizing local study groups of physicians, she took on a role of educating professionals about the ways that hypno-therapeutic suggestion can reduce bleeding, lessen the need for medications, and speed healing during and following major surgery. She retained an interest in hypnosis and suggestion throughout her life, and even in her final weeks remarked, "Dr Erickson told me that hypnosis will be here for me whenever I need it, and it is!"

Leaving the convent in 1965, Melba continued to live and work in St. Louis. She married Walter Kalwelaske, and they built a home on acreage where the rich river soil supported a bountiful vegetable garden, and she avidly shared the produce with others. She regularly canned fresh tomato juice sending jars to Dr. Erickson, a scarce treat in Arizona. She lost Walter to cancer in 1975, and leaned on her friendship with Dr. Erickson to move beyond her sorrow.

A few years later, she met and married Earl Vickery Jr, a man who shared her passions ranging from bird watching, gardening, solar energy, inventions and civic responsibilities. Together they moved to Arizona, eventually making Sierra Vista their permanent residence.

After both Earl and her dear sister, Norma, died in 2003, Melba turned her energies towards local issues, becoming enthusiastically involved with a multitude of local service groups. She loved dogs, wildlife, ecology, and public service. Her broad contributions were far-reaching. She spoke up when she felt a message needed to be heard. She used her tender hands to feed people or animals, and she generously nurtured the local community. She is survived by a brother, nieces and nephews, a stepson and a legacy of heart-warming gifts to society.

By Roxanna Erickson Klein