

Note from Bill's family: Dad's Alzheimer's has progressed to the point that he is unable to retain the knowledge of Eleanor's passing. Any mention of her condition is, to him, the first time he is hearing it, and he becomes very emotional and agitated. If you speak with him, please do not mention Eleanor's death. He thinks that she is in the hospital. Our plan is to establish a stable "new normal" for him with his new caretakers and schedule before broaching again the subject of her continued absence. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in providing the best care possible for our Dad. Laura Devonshire

For that reason, any correspondence for Bill should be addressed:

Bill Griffy c/o Laura Devonshire
424 Kelsey Rd
San Dimas CA 91773-1549

or contact her at ldevonshire@roadrunner.com
or phone 909-599-2996

Eleanor's family can be contacted via her daughter:

Kathryn Bassett
1080 N Holliston Ave
Pasadena CA 91104-3014
626-794-7973
kathryn@bassett.net



Eleanor (Ash) Rhinehart Griffy
1 Nov 1927 - 31 Dec 2010



Eleanor was born in the Doddridge county seat of West Union, West Virginia to Tillman and Estella “Peggy” (Ferrell) Ash as their youngest child. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Betty Underwood in 2004, and brother Duane in 1968.

She accepted Christ as her Saviour at age 8 when attending West Union Baptist Church, 3 blocks from where she lived.



A youthful photo favored by her children was taken when she was working for a photographer in her late teens. Her “boss” took this glamour shot in 1946.

The family moved to Akron, Ohio in 1942 where she met and married Norman Rhinehart at Goodyear Heights Baptist Church 1 Jun 1947. Shortly thereafter they moved to Los Angeles County, California. Eleanor and Norm and unborn first child Kathryn started attending Altadena Baptist Church on 15 Feb 1948. For many years they have been the most tenured members of the church and were close despite their divorce.

Kathryn (now Bassett) was born 9 Jul 1948, followed by Karen (now Lawton) 2 Jul 1952, Kay (now Blauert) 5 Oct 1954, Kerry (now Morse) 16 Jul 1957, and Kenneth Rhinehart 6 Jan 1961. She had 7



grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren (one of whom is deceased) and number ten is on the way.



In 1983, Kathryn introduced Eleanor to William Griffy and they married 16 Jun 1984. Bill has four children and Eleanor became close to daughter Laura (now Devonshire) who, coincidentally attended Altadena Baptist when she was in her teens. In the past few years, she’s also gotten close to Bill’s son Billy, who has taken up the handiman chores as Bill’s alzheimer’s disease has progressed.



In November 2008, Eleanor was diagnosed with a blood disorder called Myelodysplastic Syndrome, MDS. From then, until her death, she received 21 units of blood and 9 units of platelets, so please donate blood to the American Red Cross in her memory, in leiu of flowers. The disease progressed rapidly in December 2010, receiving 7 of the platelet units, and 5 of the blood units. Sheer determination got her to church for the Christmas sevice on the 19th, then on Dec. 22nd her blood doctor told her she had less than two weeks to live. She crammed a lot of family activity into that night and the next two days, got her hair done, and was taken to Emergency on Christmas Eve. Her doctor allowed one more transfusion session so that she would live through Christmas, and the admitting doctor removed the extra bed from her room so that the family Christmas celebration could take place at the hospital (12 in the room for most of the day) while she was getting transfused.

A “jerry chair” was put in the room so Kathryn could stay with her, and she was with her 24/7 from entering hospital to entering God’s presence a week later. Sunday night, they transferred to Country Villa Healthcare Center for Hospice. Coincidentally, that’s where she rehabilitated after she broke her back 6 years ago.

Family was in and out visiting all week, and Eleanor clung to life long enough for Ken’s wife Karen to return from Ohio where she was visting her own mother for Christmas. God had a hand in the timing because although the weather made the first of her two flights land half hour after the 2nd flight was to leave, 15 people needed to make the same connection so they held the 2nd flight for them. If it had just been Karen, we are sure they wouldn’t have held the plane, so God had to be the one to put those other people on the same flights. Karen and Ken visited in the afternoon and Eleanor passed peacefully in her sleep at 8:20pm.

Eleanor was insistant about her memorial being private and we are honoring that request, opting instead for this printed memorial for those who want to honor her memory by giving blood so others may benefit from blood as much as she did.