



Genevieve Caraher Rifkin

December 6, 1928 - November 27, 2019

Genevieve (Gene) Caraher Rifkin, 90 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 27, 2019 at the Community Hospice Bailey Family Center for Caring, St. Augustine, FL. She was born in Oak Park, IL to Francis and Genevieve (Marshall) Caraher on December 6, 1928.

Gene graduated from Beverly Hills HS in Beverly, Chicago, IL, and later attended both the University of Tampa and Chapel Hill NC graduating with a BA in English. Later in life she was awarded her Master's Degree in Social Work from Barry University in Miami, FL.

She was dedicated to social work and began her career at the Florida Welfare Department placing children for adoption. She went on to work at Hollywood Memorial Hospital; becoming the Director of the Social Work Department, and then as the Director of Social Work Services at South Miami Hospital.

In 1986 Gene relocated to Stuart, FL with her husband Avron Rifkin and became the director of the Council on Aging of Martin County where she led the growth of that organization for 10 years before retiring in 1996.

After retirement she served as a City of Stuart Commissioner and as Mayor.

She is lovingly remembered by her children Frances Bollmann (Henry), Richard F. Davis (Sissy), Kim Pieretti (Larry), Clifford Rifkin (Rosemary), and grandchildren Ted Bollmann (Becca), Jennifer Mollica, Laura Bollmann, Lawrence Pieretti (Danielle), Christine Blessing (Brian), Andrew Rifkin, and 9 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 43 years Avron C. Rifkin, his son David Rifkin, her grandson Jesse Davis, her dear brother Patrick J. Caraher, sister Margaret Levy, and her first husband and the father of Frances, Richard, and Kim; Richard F. Davis Jr.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the Council on Aging of Martin County or the Community Hospice Bailey Family Center, St. Augustine, FL.

A Funeral Mass will be held on January 4th 2020; 10 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Stuart, FL.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Stuart, FL

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Sorry this comes late to the family of beloved Gene Rifkin. I was on her staff in Social Work Services at South Miami Hospital, and I remained friends with her and Avron until they relocated to St. Augustine. Then we lost touch. Gene was the most wonderful supervisor and friend I ever had. Along with dear Avron who once served as my real estate attorney and I learned very much. She was so understanding and supportive to us and with a drive to advance the social work profession. She was named Social Worker of the Year in Florida for her work to build up services for the aging. She reminded me of the Bible verse from Proverbs 31, verses 10 to 31,
"Who shall find a valiant woman, far and from the uttermost coasts is the price of her . . ." If you look up this verse you will have a picture of Gene and her life with Avron.
Gene, We miss your kindness and wisdom and smile.
Love to all of your family.
Judith Antinarella LCSW
July 11, 2022

Judith Antinarella LCSW - July 11, 2022 at 11:31 AM

PB

“ My memories of Gene will always be of her charm and grace.love,Paulette

paulette borota - December 09, 2019 at 11:16 AM

BR

“ Gene helped nurture my career at the Council on Aging giving me many opportunities to learn, grow and advance. I still remember her opening her home for the holidays for staff gatherings and taking the time to make/give gifts of her homemade mango chutney. She was a class act, a great example of a devoted wife and a woman who helped change Martin County Florida for the better.
Bonnie Ares Royster, retired Director of Development, Council on Aging of Martin County

Bonnie Ares Royster - December 08, 2019 at 12:52 PM

SK

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Avron and Gene were wonderful people who touched many lives.

Scott K - December 08, 2019 at 08:38 AM