



Shirley Marie Balzhiser Purdy

November 10, 1932 - January 2, 2024

Shirley Marie Balzhiser Purdy, 91, of Penney Farms, passed away on January 2, 2024 at The Penney Farms Retirement Community. Shirley was born in Attica, NY, on November 10th, 1932, and her life was a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and selflessness.

Her academic journey began at Attica High School, where she graduated with distinction in 1950. Eager to expand her horizons, Shirley enrolled at the Rochester Business Institute in 1951, setting the stage for a lifetime committed to learning and personal growth.

On April 2nd, 1955, Shirley exchanged vows with George W. Purdy, embarking on a journey marked by love, support, and unwavering devotion. As George's career with the Department of Housing and Urban Development took them to different corners of the country, Shirley continued her education, attending the University of Jacksonville, Florida State, and the University of Tennessee at Nashville, diligently working towards her Bachelor's degree despite the challenges of frequent relocation.

Following George's retirement from government service, Shirley stood by his side, assisting in establishing and managing their acclaimed business in Knoxville, Tennessee, which operated from 1983 to 1991. In 1992, they settled in St. Augustine, where they embraced retirement and the opportunity

to contribute to their community in meaningful ways.

Shirley's commitment to volunteerism was nothing short of inspiring. For 21 years, she dedicated herself to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital, followed by 11 years at the East Tennessee Children's Rehab in Knoxville. In St. Augustine, her altruistic spirit continued to shine brightly through her involvement with Meals on Wheels through the Council on Aging since 1992. She was a valued contributor to the Ecumenical Food Pantry and Memorial Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon's helper and hospice volunteer, leaving an indelible mark on each organization she graced with her presence.

Beyond her altruistic endeavors, Shirley found joy in various interests. Her passion for travel, gardening, nature, reading, and cycling were testament to her vibrant spirit and zest for life.

Shirley was a cherished member of Penney Farms Memorial Church and held a special place in the hearts of those at St. Augustine's Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels.

Shirley's departure leaves a void in our lives, but her legacy of love, generosity, and selflessness will forever remain etched in our hearts. She will be profoundly missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she brightened with her kindness and compassion. Her spirit will continue to inspire us to make this world a better place, just as she did throughout her remarkable life.

She is survived by her niece, Susan B. Titchen of Morrison, CO; her nephews, Eric John Balzhiser of Denver, CO and Michael W Balzhiser of Endicott, New York and Sister in law, Sandra W Balzhiser of Littleton, Colorado

A celebration of life will be Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00am at Penney

Memorial Church

4465 Poling Blvd., PO box 354 Penney Farms Fl 32079 phone 904-284-4574.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Shirley Marie Balzhiser Purdy.*



January 12, 2024 at 06:23 PM



“ *I worked at Penmor as a housekeeper/med tech before I left. Shirley always was a joy to be around and always had a smile. She really cared for the other residents and staff. She liked the activities like bingo with friends. Liked to watch Anne with an E in the evenings before bed time in the TV room. She will be missed but I know she was truly loved by all.*

Tammy Ferguson - January 09, 2024 at 11:42 PM



“ *Shirley was a very bright light. It was always so comfortable and positive being with her. She meant so much to the RSVP of St. Johns County volunteer program. Cheryl Freeman*

Cheryl Freeman - January 04, 2024 at 04:50 PM