



Burnadette Fern (Nelligan) Button

August 7, 1928 - March 16, 2024

Burnadette Fern (Nelligan) Button, 95, died March 16, 2024, in Riverside where she was born.

She graduated from Riverside Polytechnic High School in 1946. High school friendships lasted decades and women's birthday bunch lunches continued into their 80s. The sisterhood of women active in the community sometimes brought their children along. She also attended Riverside City College.

Burna's baby book mentions her first trip to Lake Arrowhead at age 10 1/2 months, where the Nelligan family had a cabin. After marriage during visits to a larger vacation home, she enjoyed boating on the lake. Later in life, she enjoyed ocean sailing and a whitewater rafting trip. She celebrated her 80th birthday with a tandem skydive jump.

Her travel adventures took her on RCC tour bus trips and flights abroad. Family business interests in the citrus industry led her to attend Sunkist growers meetings.

In 1953, Burna joined Junior Aid, now called Junior League, where she was known for her charm, wit and enthusiasm. Her first experience with the charity group was as a can can dancer at the group's Follies fundraiser. She also represented the charity as a Riverside Museum associate.

She helped organize Riverside Hospice's annual "Light up a Life" tree-lighting ceremony beginning in 1983 to raise funds to provide needed services to families of the terminally ill.

Burna was a heart attack survivor and in 2019 she modeled evening attire for a Riverside Community Hospital program to promote healthy hearts and education about strokes.

She enjoyed Orange Blossom Model A Club outings with friends.

She survived three husbands—the late John Holden, Les Woodside and Stewart Button. Her late father, Burdette F. Nelligan, was chief motorcycle officer for the city of Riverside in 1927.

No services are planned. Preston and Simons Mortuary in Riverside handled arrangements.

Her family wants to thank Dr. Mina Mikhail, Autumn Hill, Morning Star Hospice and Extended Care of Riverside for her care.