



## Gloria Anne Merrigan

February 4, 1930 - December 18, 2017

Gloria Anne Merrigan (Lapis) 87, passed away peacefully on December 18th 2017 at Casa San Miguel in Santa Barbara California, with her children by her side.

Gloria was born Feb 4th 1930 in Hollywood Ca, to Joseph Paul Lapis and Urselle Baker Lapis. She attended St Charles Catholic school in North Hollywood, Ca. grades 1-6th. She transferred to Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy girls boarding school, and graduated in 1948. She was president of her class and participated in Basketball, Volleyball and Tennis. She also received the "Hall of Fame" award for her excellence in the sport of Basketball.

After high school she attended Fresno State University from 1948-1952. She earned her BA degree in Teaching and Physical Education. While at Fresno State, Gloria was President of the Newman Club, President of Delta Sigma Epsilon Sorority, member of Pi Epsilon Honorary PE Sorority, member of Women's Athletic Association and a member of Orchesis Modern Dance Club. After graduation she taught 2 years of PE at Wasco High School from 1952-1954.

On September 11, 1954 Gloria married the love of her life Walter Daniel Merrigan Jr. of Las Vegas NV. Services were held at St Charles Catholic church in North Hollywood, Ca. The couple honeymooned in San Francisco, Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Following the marriage, the couple settled in Las Vegas, NV from 1954-1960.

While living in Las Vegas, Gloria gave birth to two of her four children, Michelle and Kevin. She was member and VP of American Association of University Women, a member of the Panhellenic Association which governed all collegiate sororities, and was also a chairperson of Marriage Encounter Retreats.

In 1960 Gloria and Walt and their two children relocated to Santa Barbara, California. In Santa Barbara, Gloria and Walt had 2 more children, Kerri and Michael. With four children, Gloria continued to be active in various clubs and organizations. Still being a member of the AAUW and the Panhellenic Association, she became an active member of St Rapheals Catholic parish. Over the years, Gloria was involved with serving on St Raphaels Parish counsel, President of the CCD board, taught 2nd grade children preparing for 1st Holy Communion, taught 7th grade children in preparation for Confirmation, volunteered for St Rapheals youth group section, was an active member for Ladies of Charities of St. Vincents and continued her work with the Marriage Encounter Retreats. Gloria, along with her husband Walter, was also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, counsel 5300. But she will be most remembered for being a greeter at the 9:30 am Sunday masses for many years.

In 1977, with the passing of her beloved husband Walter, Gloria remained strong within her family, faith and friends. At this time Gloria started a new career path in the banking industry. She quickly realized that her true passion was teaching. Gloria became very active as the President of the PTA at San Marcos High School and started substitute teaching for Junior High and High School students in the mid 80s.

In 1989 she became a teacher for the Santa Barbara School District as a Home Hospital Teacher. She brought many years of joy and happiness to her students she met through this program. She continued with this type of work, well into her retirement.

Gloria's strong belief in God and her religion, gave her the strength and courage to fight her cancer like a "BullDog" until her final day of Gods calling.

She is survived by Michelle Merrigan, Kevin Merrigan, wife Diane, Kerri Churchill, husband Pat and Michael Merrigan. Four grandchildren, Alec Churchill, Ian Churchill, Riley Merrigan and Danielle Merrigan.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to the Ridley Tree Cancer Center in Santa Barbara.

The family would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and caretakers at Ridley Tree Cancer Center, Casa San Miguel and Cottage Hospital who provided care for mom these past two years.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 687-8811  
[http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery\\_id=3](http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3)

# Previous Events

## Rosary

DEC **29**. 7:00 PM (PT)

St. Raphael Catholic Church  
5444 Hollister Ave.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
<http://www.straphaelsb.com/>

## Funeral Mass

DEC **30**. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Raphael Catholic Church  
5444 Hollister Ave.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
<http://www.straphaelsb.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *Dear Kerri and Family*

*A few weeks ago I had the need to research people who made an impact on my life. I was sad to read that your mother passed away one December 18, 2017. Of her four children, you were the only one I found a way to reach. I am Don Wise, and I was a student of your mother's at Wasco High School in 1952. Miss Lapis was the one teacher that had such a positive influence on her students. I was not always the most focused student, but your mother used her many skills to redirect my attention. The highlight of our numerous class reunions was the presence of Gloria. We had 99 students in our graduation class, and we all looked forward to the visit by your mom. I believe the last time we had the opportunity to see you mother was our 50th reunion in 2006. My father was a teacher-administrator at Wasco from 1928 to 1967 and was thankful and appreciative of the two years she taught at Wasco.*

*I spent 53 years working in secondary education. When hiring teachers as a high school principal, I always looked for those many qualities your mother demonstrated. Her ability to connect with students and provide guidance were a skill I sought in every teacher I hired. However, there was only one Gloria Lapis.*

*Today one of the security questions on my computer is "name your favorite teacher" You know who that was. Best wishes to you and your family.*

*Sincerely, Don Wise  
1621 Ridley Ave,  
Hacienda Heights California*

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**Don Wise** - January 27, 2019 at 04:53 PM

LS

“ *Kerri and Family:*

*Just a note to extend our condolences for your loss of Gloria--a most wonderful lady that we loved and adored. Your obit was very well written and enlightening. We learned so much more about what made Gloria such a great person, mom, wife, friend and gift to all of us in the community. What an accomplished lady and what a wonderful, full life she lived.*

*She was probably the first person we ever met at St. Raphael...as we walked in the door that first time over 25 years ago. A warm smile, shake and welcome. Fittingly, the most wonderful lady in the parish :) Always put your best foot forward, right?*

*All those years of kindness, thoughtfulness, warmth and love for all. She is a treasure and will be greatly missed by each of us who knew her. We've benefitted by her presence here on earth, and surely she looks down on us from heaven with a smile, knowing she did well, so very well.*

*Know that all of you, her immediate family, are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With much love,*

*Larry, Ruthie, Paige, Diana and Teddy Sleep*

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**larry sleep** - December 29, 2017 at 01:58 PM