



## Marcella Rinehart Parker "Marcy"

March 18, 1928 - April 5, 2019

Marcella Rinehart Parker passed away on Friday, April 5th at her home in Santa Barbara, CA at the age of 91. She was surrounded by members of her family in the days and hours leading up to her passing.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa on March 18, 1928, Marcy was the middle child in a family of seven, born to Clarence and Merle Rinehart. Not long after her 18th birthday she headed west to Colorado to pursue a career as a singer. Her voice, charisma and poise opened many doors for her. She had standing gigs at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs (where she was also crowned Miss Pikes Peak in 1947) and at The Brown Palace in Denver.

California was the next stop where she worked at the Penny - Owsley Music Store, sang at The Zebra Room in the Ambassador Hotel and at the invitation of Bob Hope, traveled to Korea to perform for U.S. troops on a goodwill tour that also included singer and actress Debbie Reynolds.

California is where she met and married her one true love. In typical Hollywood fashion she met her future husband, Fess Parker, at a swimming pool complex. She was visiting a friend and he had snuck in to cool off. They married at El Montecito Presbyterian Church in Montecito in January of 1960 and held their wedding reception at The Talk of the Town. Marcy and Fess were married for 50 years and raised two children, Eli Parker and Ashley

Parker Snider, both of Santa Barbara.

Marcy was a talented interior designer who first practiced her skills on over a dozen homes in Los Angeles and Hope Ranch, and later was instrumental in helping the family launch their winery in Los Olivos. She was known for her fabulous parties and for being an exemplary hostess. Her love of music never left her and in 2000 she recorded a CD of ballads with her friend and accompanist Bill Powell of Solvang, CA. With Bill at the piano, Marcy and Fess would headline the much beloved Thursday night sing-a-longs at the Fess Parker Wine Country Inn in Los Olivos.

Toward the end of her life Marcy was blessed to have received tremendous care from Dr. Bruce Bailey, the dedicated staff at Nursecore, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care as well as her wonderful caregiver Maria Ibarra and assistant Leslie Wilson.

Marcy is survived by two children, eleven grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

A Private Service is planned.

# Tribute Wall

CV

“ I was saddened to learn of Marcey’s passing. Marcey and Fess were close friends with my parents James and Vince Viso. I can still remember when they came to Santa Clara for our wedding in 1973. Marcey and Fess were so gracious, loving and always made time to talk. Ashley and Eli, both of you parents were wonderful and extra special people.

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**Chad and Cherry Viso** - May 23, 2020 at 05:38 PM

JB

“ She'll always be "Aunt Marcy" to me. She was kind, generous, and had a magnificence of spirit that was an inspiration. I'm so glad she was in my life - I'll remember her wit, infectious laugh, love of song and beautiful voice. I'm truly sorry for your loss.

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**John Bargiel** - April 24, 2019 at 12:23 PM

GF

“ Please accept my family’s sincere condolences on the loss of your dear loved one Mrs. Parker. May you find comfort in fond memories of her, and hope in God’s assured promise to shortly awaken those asleep in death to perfect health and conditions under his new earthly government.

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**Greene Family** - April 23, 2019 at 04:41 PM