



Ruth Martha Perry

June 1, 1925 - November 28, 2024

Ruth Perry died peacefully at 97 years old with a failing heart, her daughter Martha in attendance, on July 8, 2022. Always vigorous, she had declined in weight and strength living in isolation during the Covid pandemic.

Born Ruth Martha Thompson on June 1, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois, she grew up in Ravinia on Chicago's North Shore, and attended Drake University, where she pledged the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Moving to California with her parents as her professor father retired, she attended Santa Barbara College, but soon met and married Bill (Wilfred) Perry of Santa Barbara, home from the war and a student on the G.I. Bill. They moved to San Leandro California, where Bill started a teaching job at San Leandro High.

After leaving teaching for Caterpillar Tractor Company, the growing family moved to Peoria Illinois, then Jackson Mississippi, Glasgow Scotland, and finally Geneva Switzerland. Ruth enjoyed each of these places, and evolved into a bold and enthusiastic lifelong traveler. Transferred back to Peoria in 1970, she went back to school, obtained her RN degree, and practiced nursing for a number of years. In 1982 they retired to Santa Barbara, Bill's birthplace. Here Ruth enjoyed a happy retirement, involved in the El Montecito Presbyterian Church, other volunteer activities, hiking, playing tennis, and enjoying her friends and family. Her enthusiasm for these, as well as bridge and book clubs, was an inspiration to her family and all her many friends. Bill, her husband of 64 years, died quietly in 2012.

She is survived by her three children: Rod Perry of Oakland, Jonathan Perry

of Ventura, Martha Wetherill of Oceanside, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was buried with her husband in the Santa Barbara Cemetery on August 4, 2022, with family and friends in attendance at the graveside..

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231