



Gloria Virginia Ryan Spence

OCT 21, 1927 - JAN 2, 2017



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Gloria Virginia Ryan Spence was known by most people in Crownsville & many in Annapolis. She was a lifetime resident of Herald Harbor on the Severn, oldest child of Samuel and Thelma Ryan, siblings Bette and William Ryan. Her parents were the proprietors of the Herald Harbor Beach Club during the 1930s and 40s when the beach club was a favorite getaway for crowds from Washington, D.C.

Gloria was a graduate of the original Arundel High School in Millersville where she excelled at French & took pride in being voted "best dressed" by her fellow students. She was married at 21 to James (Jim) Spence who had traveled from D.C. to attend a dance at the beach club where they met. The Spence couple married and took over the Ryan home overlooking the beautiful Severn River where Gloria had grown up. Other than a brief stint living in N.Y., working for the Stock Exchange, she lived in the same home all her life. Four children came along: Valerie, Kimberly, Kevin and James IV.

Nothing pleased Gloria more than having company to whom she served sumptuous meals, tending her gardens, creating oil paintings, listening to music, chatting with neighbors of all ages & enjoying her growing family.

Being gifted in many areas, she acquired numerous hobbies, particularly studying the stock market and buying, renovating, renting and selling local properties. She found humor in being a successful woman in what was then a man's world.

She was quietly generous to many, lending or giving money where she saw need. People came to her regularly for help, and they received it. She was also one of Bill's friends for over 40 years.

Her last years were spent at Brightview Assisted Living facility where she was much loved by the staff. Her steady descent into Alzheimer's disease was extremely painful to all who knew her.

She now resides with her Lord and Savior and will be sorely missed but not forgotten.



Obituary

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Services will be private.



Tribute Wall

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KS

Kathleen Bowen Simons posted:

Sorry I am so late to write something here. Gloria was a lifelong friend to my mother, Jane Drury Bowen (whose parents had a house at Herald Harbor for decades), and I have fond memories of when we visited her at her home Herald Harbor. ((HUGS)) to all of her family~

April 24 at 9:16 AM

DM

Darlene Matthews posted:

Mr. Spence, Kevin and family, My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the comfort and peace you seek at this difficult time. I will always remember how Mrs. Gloria would stare you down and her beautiful smile. Most of all I will treasure how day at dinner I gave Mrs. Gloria a hug and she gave me a kiss on my cheek! Darlene Matthews

January 9 at 6:10 AM

DR

Diane Roy posted:

I loved my Aunt Gloria and I'm so glad I got to see her just before Christmas. She was so joyful that day! I have such fond memories of gatherings at her family home, especially at Christmas, when we were growing up. Aunt Gloria was such an awesome cook! She was a loving, caring person and I will miss her. My prayers will be with all who loved her, especially my Uncle Jim (a wonderful, loving husband), my cousins (whom I love dearly), and my own mother (who loved her sister deeply). Aunt Gloria will live on in our hearts and minds until we see her again on the other side.

January 8 at 3:17 PM

JJ

Joy Jarman posted:

I didn't know Gloria, but am blessed to have gotten to know both Kevin and his dad Jim. My sincere condolences to Jim, Kevin, Gwinn, and the rest of the Spence family. In friendship and love, Joy Jarman and Mark Smith

January 6 at 10:26 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gloria by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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