



Josephine Modesta Varner

September 18, 1938 - March 28, 2012

Obituary for Josephine M. (Chavez) Pickens/Varner

Josephine Pickens Varner (73) died peacefully surrounded by her family on March 28, 2012.

She had valiantly battled the debilitating disease Inclusive Myocitis for 12 years.

Born in San Francisco, CA, 1938, Jo lived most of her life in Marin Co., CA before her final residence in Carson City with her husband Carrol Varner.

After her husband Ray Pickens died, Jo successfully ran Marin Gas from 1977 to 1995. Prior to this period she had worked for 16 years for the Marin Humane Society.

Jo had many interests and during the mid '70's she was involved in the 99'ers Club. She was an avid tennis player as well as supporter of the Terra Linda Tennis Club. She also enjoyed hiking, music, the arts and travel. She was a pilot of the family plane and enjoyed taking friends on flights.

Her numerous charities and associations demonstrated her generosity and concern for those in need.

Even as her disease continued to limit her, Jo never stopped enjoying what she could with family and friends. She was a beloved woman, known for her kindness, wisdom and loyalty to all who knew her.

Both of Jo's husbands: Ray Pickens and Carrol Varner, her son Steven, her parents: I.Paul and Carmen Chavez and younger sister Helen predeceased her. She is survived by her son and daughter, Mike and Cindy Pickens; her sister, Carmen (Chavez) Fraga; her grandsons, Steven and Zac Taverner; her step-children: Martha (Varner) Panela and John and Tim Varner; plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ *Josephine Modesta Varner*

November 04, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Josephine Modesta Varner*

November 01, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *I will cherish every moment I was blessed to be your friend Jo. You will live in my heart forever. Rest sweetly forever next to your loving husband.*

Chris Scott - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace sweet woman. You will be greatly missed. If the world had more people like u in it, it would be such a better place to live. Go with God.*

Valerie - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ Cindy and Mike, I am so sorry to learn this news about Jo. She was one of the most inspirational persons I have ever had the honor of knowing. Her love and kindness was beyond words. I admired her strength and ability to keep going and never complain. Her and Carrol both touched my life so deeply and their presence will surely be missed. I loved them both and am so grateful to have them teach me how to smile under pressure and keep going no matter what. Heaven has another beautiful angel among them. RIP Jo and thanks for all you did for me! I Love you!

Fran White - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Hi Cindy & Mike,
So sorry for your loss. I did not realize that your mom was involved with the Humane Society. She led a wonderful, full life.
You are in our thoughts.
The Pashilk Family

debbie pashilk - April 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Cindy and Mike,
I can't tell you how sorry I was to hear of your mother's passing. I know it has been years since we have seen each other, but remember her fondly with memories from our childhood.
Sending a big hug your way,
Sincerely,
Kim (Phelan) Fanucchi

Kim(Phelan) Fanucchi - April 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Jo had such a big heart I don't think they can find a casket big enough to hold it. She was always concerned about the effect that her actions as owner of Marin Gas Products had on the employees. I'll never forget when she was still a student pilot & she circled & circled over San Rafael until she could spot the swimming pool at her & Ray's house.

Bill Pickens - April 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ I love you and will miss you with all my heart, you are such an inspiration. You were so strong through everything life has given you! You never complained and always had such a warm and beautiful smile.
I also want to mention the example you set for your grandchildren who fondly called you Grandma Jo was such a gift. Michael, Melissa, Patrick, Dominic, Nico, Brittany, Mason and Jenna (listed by age) and your greats Katelyn and Aedan, Tayley and one more on the way (who is only going to hear the stories we share) are all going to miss you..we love you and have been blessed to have had you in our lives!!!!

Martha Varner - April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ may joe rest in peace god bless her

fred and edwina esparza - April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I feel fortunate to have had Jo as a friend for so many years. She will be sorely missed.

Lynn Dougan - April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Dear Cindy and Mike,
God bless you and your family. Heaven is so very fortunate to have
Jo's laughter and joy in its midst!
With love,
Bob Crist*

Bob Crist - April 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM