



Florence Leal Thompson

September 12, 1932 - February 25, 2022

Florence Thompson Obituary Florence Leal Thompson

Florence Leal Thompson, 89, died at home in Folsom, CA, on February 25, 2022. She was born in Melville, Montana—a town at that time with a population of 15—to Robert and Alice Mahoney. She graduated from high school in Alameda, CA.

Leal loved adventure, travel, and sports. She played racquetball, softball, volleyball and, in her mid-80s, pickleball, competing with players in their sixties. She belonged to a volleyball league, and was a certified SCUBA diver, diving with family in Lanai, HI, and with Paul Thompson, her husband of 69 years, in Cozumel, MX, and Long Island, Bahamas. She loved Hershey's Kisses, the music of Tom Jones, and camping in Hope Valley and coastal California. Reading was a favorite pastime, as was crocheting, which she taught to students in El Dorado Hills. She was a co-founder of Mad Hatters, volunteers who knitted hats and blankets for newborns, as well as chemotherapy caps for cancer patients, blankets for maternity homes, and caps and slippers for children in need. The organization eventually grew to a membership of 600, with chapters in California, Idaho, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Wisconsin, and Hawaii. Within eight years, Leal and her cohorts had knitted, donated, and delivered 150,000 hats. Leal once commented: "We knit

hats with joy and give them with love,” a statement that defines her heart, commitment, and generosity.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Alice Mahoney; sister, Helen Getto; and son Steve Thompson. She is survived by her husband, Paul Thompson; daughter, Pamela (Robert) Banks; son, Bruce Thompson; granddaughters Jena Meredith, Maya Kepner, Megan Lydon, and Allie Price; and by great grandchildren Kai Meredith, Dillon and Kody Kepner, and Brooklyn and Hazel Lydon.

Leal was a glowing light in the life of her family and will be deeply missed. A celebration of life is planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her name to your favorite charity.

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Tribute Wall

CC

“ *The Ladies of the Lake Book Club was rich and thoughtful, a place to discuss and learn from each other, often sharing diverse opinions and thoughts because ,in large part, to the perspective and wisdom Leal brought . Truly blessed that she was our Sage for decades, time that passed so quickly yet will always be a blessing..*

Cathy Cook - May 14, 2022 at 05:48 PM

PB

“ *Celebration of Life for Leal Thompson 9/12/1932-2/25/2022Friday, May 20, 20221:30-4Pm Backyard of Debbie and Ken El Dorado Hills CAOROr zoomZoom meetings celebration May 21, 2022 10:30-11:30AM or 1:30-2:30PMAask for zoom link If you plan to attend one of the celebrations RSVP Pam Banks which event for details at:Pam Banks email pamelateach@gmail.com*

Pamela Banks - May 13, 2022 at 12:07 AM

PB

“ *Uploaded nine photos*

Plus 6 more. Click to view all 9.

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Pam Banks - May 13, 2022 at 12:05 AM

PB

“ *Thanks for sharing Freddie.*

Pamela Banks - April 16, 2022 at 10:38 PM

FR

“ *Leal had a great sense of humor and an easy laugh. I cannot help but to smile thinking of her. She was a loyal member of the Lakehills Book Club aka Ladies of the Lake for 20 yrs. Leal accompanied me to many Holocaust survivor speaker events in Rocklin - many times as my navigator and co-pilot. She was a mentor and friend. Love you, Leal*

Freddie - April 14, 2022 at 08:04 PM

PB

“ *Mad Hatters and mom sharing why she volunteered for hospice and why we need an end of life celebration.* ”

Pamela Banks - March 28, 2022 at 08:09 PM