



“Celebrating a Life of Joy, Laughter and Kindness”

Carol H. Richards

December 22, 1924 - August 28, 2021

September 7, 2021

Forest Lawn Memorial Parks & Mortuaries

1712 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205

Visitation – Rooms 14, 15 (1:00pm)

Memorial – Week Kirk o’ The Heather Glendale room (2:00pm)

Funeral – Lot 11, Whispering Pines (3:00pm)

Prelude:

Celebrant: Welcome and Introduction *Fr. Rick Byrum*

Celebrant: May God bless us with a spirit of joy as we share our stories of love and life. We come together to remember Carol Richards who has been a light to us here on earth. Although she is not physically present to us, the goodness that was unique to her now shines brightly before our Lord and God.

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"
Performed by: Andreas Mitisek
Sung by: Everyone

*Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear that hour I first believe.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, with-in the veil, a life of joy and peace. Amen*

Psalm 23 *Revised Standard Version (RSV)*
The Divine Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Celebrant: Let us remember Carol who has touched our life in a special way, those who have helped light our way on earth, but now enjoy eternal light and life in heaven.

Reflections & Memories
Tom Armstrong & Stan Mullin
John Oney
Alison Conroy & John Richards III

The Lord's Prayer
Music by: *Albert H. Malotte*
Sung by: *Roberto Perlas Gomez - baritone*

Everyone: **The Lord's Prayer:** OUR Father, Amen.

Commendation

Celebrant:

Consoler of the Grieving, You know the pain in our loss. Come with your compassionate love. Embrace our sorrow and heartache. Soothe our sore, distressed spirit. Gather all of our good memories and hold them close to our heart So they can bring us the needed comfort. In this time of our grieving carry us on your strong wings. Be our patience day by day when the heartache refuses to leave. Be our strength when we are exhausted. Be our hope when we feel overwhelmed. Be our faith when we do not understand. Be our trust when we are distraught. Be our peace when we are filled with tears. Amen.

Prayers of Farewell

Celebrant:

God of all, we pray to you for Carol, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them as they share with you in that heavenly banquet. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: **Amen.**

May the LORD bless *her* and keep *her*, *may* the LORD make his face to shine upon *her* and be gracious unto *her*, *may* the LORD lift up his countenance upon *her*, and give *her* peace, both now and evermore.

MAY Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and for evermore.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Song: **You'll never walk alone**
Written by: *Rodgers & Hammerstein*
Music by: *Andreas Mitisek*
Sung by: *Roberto Perlas Gomez - baritone*

Carol and her older sister Allie grew up in Los Angeles where their father, Paul J Howard, a self-made landscape designer, developed an extensive horticultural business that began on 20 acres in Santa Fe Springs in the early 1900's and expanded to the Paul J Howard Horticultural Nurseries and California Flowerland Nurseries throughout the LA area.

Carol graduated from the Marlborough High School in Los Angeles and went off to Scripps College, East of Los Angeles, but in the grim climate of WWII decided this was not for her and she opted instead for secretarial school.

In the early 1950's, armed with practical training, a curious mind, innate organizational skills and healthy enthusiasm, Carol soon became involved in her first significant philanthropic challenge - saving the Hollywood Bowl (which had filed for bankruptcy in 1951). Carol worked behind the scenes as the volunteer coordinator and later as a Board Member to support the efforts of Dorothy Chandler. They found support from varied businesses and individuals in Los Angeles to resurrect this important L.A. cultural venue. Carol then began her work, from concept to realization, on the development the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County (at that time it included the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theater and Mark Taper Forum) - again working with Dorothy Chandler. Carol focused on public relations and fundraising, including the Opera Ball for the Music Center.

Carol has many other interests, including politics. She worked with the LA County Central Committee for the Republican Party especially during the Eisenhower presidential campaign when she organized the party's research library and coordinated all the speaking engagements in Southern California.

In her "spare time" Carol also got her California real estate license and worked for many years with her father, developing and managing the vast array of real estate holdings that began with the family's various nursery properties.

In September of 1966 Carol married John Richards of Long Beach. She embraced his son John Jr. and continues to enjoy their three grandchildren Elizabeth, John III and Alison and their children. Carol soon became involved in her new home city, particularly the Long Beach Opera ("LBO") and the University Art Museum at Cal State University Long Beach. The gentleman leading us in music and song today, Andreas Mitisek, has been the Artistic Director of LBO for many years and their close friendship was through their mutual work with that avant-garde opera company.

Carol initially was a "friend " of the General Phineas Banning Residence Museum, in Wilmington, CA (not far from the Port of Los Angeles) thanks to her childhood friend Nancy Banning Call. Carol was fascinated by the historic aspect of the home turned museum, possibly because of the restoration of this house and grounds. Beginning in the 1970's, as a guest at various museum events, then as a Friends Board member and after as an emeritus Board Member, Carol has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the museum's many programs and preservation efforts. In honor of their father, Carol and her sister Allie Howard Gorham - made possible the restoration of the wisteria and rose gardens next the barn - now the Howard Rose Garden - a lovely quiet oasis on this busy museum campus.

In November of 2004 Carol moved south to Aliso Viejo, in Orange County, CA and into a beautiful residential development called The Covington (“Cottage 17A”). To her pleasant surprise there were a good number of neighbors that were also from Los Angeles (and a few she knew from years past!). Her time here was a joy. Nesa Thompson looked after her health and medical needs and Katie Ruiz made sure Carol’s finances were in good shape. They were and remain very close to Carol. They were ever more important in her life in her later years. The Richards, Thompson and Armstrong families, Katie, Stan and many others have shared many wonderful times with Carol at The Covington. “Father Rick” as she called him, became a source of strength in recent years. Last but certainly not least, Carol had loving care in recent times. Along with Nesa and Albert Thompson, Cynthia Grant, Vicki Golez, Melinda Nueda, Joy Alonalon, Luida Alcausin and Susan Banawa were at her side 24/7 making sure all her needs were met....and always with a smile 😊.

In accordance with Carol’s wishes, the Richard’s family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations should be made to:

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The Long Beach Opera
115 Pine Avenue, Suite 550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Phone: 562.470.7464 (SING)
Fax: 562.612.7958
info@longbeachopera.org
www.LongBeachOpera.org

Or to a charity of the donor’s choice

A website has been set up for Carol’s family and friends to post their favorite memories of time with him and / or post pictures at...

www.CarolRichardsTribute.com

Please build the site to be one that is “filled to the brim” with images that remind us of her love of life and wonderful humor 😊

Flowers can be ordered from Forest Lawn by calling (800)204-3131 x 3 or x4632
(Flower Shop)

Notes of condolence can be sent to Carol’s godsons, *Stan Mullin and Tom Armstrong, 19332 Sierra Perla Road, Irvine, CA 92603.*