



## Virginia T. Spinney-McKenna

August 27, 1934 - July 9, 2019

Seabrook Beach, NH – On July 9, 2019, Virginia T. Spinney-McKenna, of Seabrook Beach, after a lengthy battle with cancer, went to heaven. With her at the time was her loving husband and their loving daughter.

Ginny was born August 27, 1934, in Methuen, MA, the daughter of the late Raymond and Elsie (Blackburn) Spinney. She was educated in the Methuen Public School System and graduated from Searles High School in 1952. She was a cheerleader, wrote for the Blue and White school paper, served on the Ring, Pin and Yearbook and several other committees. Ginny completed four years at Merrimack College, graduated in 1964, with a Bachelor of Science in Education. Ginny served on the Merrimack Yearbook Committee and was selected as the Career Day Speaker for the graduating class of 1964.

She taught English for one year at Andover Institute of Business, then fourth grade for seven years at the Pollard School, Plaistow. Ginny was elected to represent her school district for the Teachers' Association of NH. Ginny continued her education at Salem State College, Tufts University, UNH, and University of Lowell, and was certified in teaching and testing special-needs and learning-disabled students. In 1972 Mrs. McKenna transferred to the Andover, Massachusetts, school system as a fourth-grade special-needs teacher. In 1974 she founded Veritas, The Learning Center for Children, Inc., for students with learning disabilities, certified by the Massachusetts Department of Education and located on the former campus of Abbott Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. Because of health reasons, it was determined Ginny would have to forego opening Veritas and she retired.

Eight years later, 1984, Ginny returned to teaching on a part-time basis. In 1985 she accepted an assignment in Kingston, testing Kindergarten through fifth grade students. In 1986 she accepted a position in the Special Needs Department at Haverhill High School. Ginny's love for teaching third and fourth-grade students prompted her to transfer to St. James School, fourth-grade, the following year. Six years later, 1993, when Silver Hill School was opened, she was selected to transfer and teach fourth-grade students, with the additional duties of testing and was co-chair of the committee to recommend

appropriate educational programs for students. Mrs. McKenna retired in 1999.

Ginny loved to dance, read, and be with her family, especially having the grandchildren visit at Seabrook Beach and planning to take them to Disney World, Amish Country, Hershey Park, New York City, and numerous other visiting and vacation time with them.

Ginny is survived by her husband of 45 years and best friend for 60 years; their daughter Erin L. McKenna-Stroup of Seabrook, four step-sons, Harry J. McKenna, III, his wife Diane of Haverhill, MA; Richard D. McKenna of Waterbury, CT; Daniel J. McKenna of Port St. Lucie, FL; Timothy S. McKenna of Salem, NH; four granddaughters; three grandsons, a great-grandson and great-granddaughter, and her sister-in-law and lifelong friend Grace (McKenna) Bechard.

She was predeceased by her father Raymond Spinney, her mother Elsie Spinney-Donnelly, her step father Edward Donnelly and her step-son Wayne McKenna.

Visiting hours will be held from 5-7 P.M., Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11A.M. Wednesday July 17, 2019 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 289 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Burial will be in the West Parish Cemetery, Andover, MA at a later date. In lieu of traditional remembrances, donations may be made to Constellation Hospice, 180 Low Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 as they provided Ginny with exceptional care and sincere concern not only for her welfare but her family as well.

# Events

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**JUL Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM**

**16**

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Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road · , Hampton, NH, US, 03842

**JUL Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM**

**17**

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Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church  
289 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH, US

# Comments

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“ Erin and family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers for all of you during this difficult time. Her beautiful tribute shows how much she was loved by all of you. May you take solace in your memories throughout the many years you had together.  
Dulcinea (Seacoast Pathways)

Dulcinea K - July 21, 2019 at 08:11 AM

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“ Visiting Ginny was a bright spot in my day, I loved her smile and shared interests and immediate connection. Even though I only knew her briefly, I can see her love and strength lives on in Erin and Harry.

Loretta Mangano - July 18, 2019 at 10:48 PM

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“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



Tara Fuller - July 17, 2019 at 03:38 PM

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“ Mimi was such an integral part of our childhood. What would lazy summer days be without our annual sun-soaked visits to Seabrook? All the time spent together on the beach, the days blending together into one long summer hood memory, and all the memorable extras that stand out. The swan paddle boats at dinner, parasailing and dares to ride the tallest water slides. And how special we're the trips you took us on to New York, Florida and Pennsylvania. I'll never forget Annie on Broadway and the Rockettes. Surprise breakfasts with Mickey and riding the monorail for hours, “right through our hotel!, the Jennie Wade house in Gettysburg and visiting the Amish communities. They were true highlights in my childhood.

Even without the ocean, you still were able to bring a little of your love of the summer to my children in land-locked Virginia. Lots of poolside visits that they too will remember forever.

I know you disliked being called Mimi instead of Grandma, but you truly were our grandmother in all senses of the word. We love you and will miss you.

Erin and Grandpa, I hope you will find some small comfort in all the wonderful memories Mimi left us. Please know how much you are loved and thought of every day. Xoxo



**Tara Fuller** - July 17, 2019 at 03:33 PM

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“ We always waved to Ginny each time we went to and from the beach she loved. She always had a lovely smile and wave when we saw her. We continue to wave at that the window knowing her spirit is watching down on her family and smiling. Wishing your family comfort and peace during this time.. The Brennan Family

**Pauline Brennan** - July 16, 2019 at 10:55 PM

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“ My love, thoughts and prayers are with you and Erin during this difficult time. May Ginny's memory be a blessing to all those she knew. What we have once loved and enjoyed, we can never lose and we can be thankful that we had the privilege of knowing her while she was here. She will forever be in my heart and I will miss her dearly.  
Love,  
Tim

Timothy McKenna - July 15, 2019 at 05:52 PM

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“ 70 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - July 15, 2019 at 03:33 PM

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“ Dear Harry and Erin  
Thinking of you and sending our love and prayers.  
Our friendship with Ginny began 49 years ago. We remember the fun trips we took and the good times we had together. We certainly shared a lot of laughs.  
Ginny, we miss you. Rest In Peace our friend.  
Love,  
Pat and Paul

Patricia Curley - July 13, 2019 at 02:27 PM

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“ We will always remember Ginny as a gentle, warm and caring person who could be counted on to have a kind word for everyone she knew. She will be greatly missed.

The Pace & Sullivan families

Ann Pace - July 13, 2019 at 10:17 AM

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“ Dear Harry and Erin,

Ginny was one of the first neighbors when I bought my home at 76 Pembroke Street to welcome me to the neighborhood. Always a kind and funny lady especially when we all got together. Her quick wit and kindness will always remain with me. May memories of your loving wife and mom sustain you at this difficult time.

Dottie Crisa & Family

Dorothea A. Crisa - July 12, 2019 at 02:26 PM

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“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Terri - July 11, 2019 at 05:45 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Virginia T. Spinney-McKenna.



July 10, 2019 at 09:47 PM