



Virginia M. Minar

April 14, 1923 - June 14, 2015

Virginia May Minar was born on April 14, 1923, the second daughter of Metha and Holger Petersen. Virginia grew up in the Kenosha, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois areas, and married George Minar on May 23, 1947. She attended UW-Milwaukee earning both her bachelors and masters degree. Virginia taught art in the West Allis School District from 1971 to 1986. After retiring from teaching, she conducted art therapy sessions for cancer patients through a program at St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee from 1990 to 1993, and then in private practice through 1998.

After full retirement in June of 1998, George and Virginia moved to Las Vegas. They truly enjoyed the hot sunny climate and developed a wide circle of wonderful friends. Virginia was an avid golfer, playing 2-3 times a week until she was 89. She played well and shot two holes in one during league play.

Virginia is survived by George, her husband of 68 years; her nephews, Lindsey (Judi) Nelson of Woodruff, WI and James (Paula) Nelson of Bonita Springs, Florida; niece Kristine (Jeff) Ham of Rhinelander, WI; great-nieces and great-nephews from Wisconsin and Minnesota, and wonderful friends in Nevada and Wisconsin.

She was preceded in death by her son, Stephan; her daughter, Karen; her sister, Helen Nelson and her parents.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made in her name to Dr. Kate Hospice, P.O. Box 770, Woodruff, WI 54568 or Research Fund of American Art Therapy, 1202 Allanson Road, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Tribute Wall

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“ *The passing of Virginia Minar marks the loss of a towering art therapy pioneer and great lady. Our profession is deeply indebted to Virginia's contributions and leadership. I first met Virginia when she enrolled in my class "Art For The Emotionally Disturbed and Socially Maladjusted Child" at the University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1971. Virginia was an outstanding and enthusiastic student and one of my most exceptional colleagues. Through-out her practice and leadership, Virginia helped keep the broad vision of art therapy alive. My wife, Maryann and I extend our heart felt condolences to Virginia's family, friends and colleagues. Wayne Ramirez*

Wayne Ramirez - June 18, 2015 at 01:23 PM

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“ *Roberta Shoemaker-Beal sent a virtual gift in memory of Virginia M. Minar*



Roberta Shoemaker-Beal - June 17, 2015 at 07:02 PM

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“ It is sad to know that Virginia Minar is not with us anymore. She was a dynamic, talented and compassionate woman with a firmness that brought art therapy services to many Milwaukee area children. When I was in Milwaukee, in the early '80's, Virginia was one of the strongest practitioners of art therapy in the region. We changed the options at the Mount Mary College Graduate Art therapy Program to reflect the development she created for art therapy services to special needs kids in the schools of Wisconsin, from her base in the West Allis School District near the college, to include art teacher-therapist. Earlier, in 1971, Virginia helped host the second national Art Therapy Association conference at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, launching our new profession among the other pioneers of art therapy in that state. Later, Virginia Minar wisely guided the entire AATA, as its president, during some difficult years. Virginia will be greatly missed. It is wonderful to read that she finally got the retirement she craved, playing golf in Las Vegas with her wonderful husband, George. Goodbye, happy trails, Virginia.

Roberta Shoemaker-Beal - June 17, 2015 at 06:27 PM