
Rose Essick

Obituary



May 28, 1923 - April 11, 2015

Longtime Burbank resident Rose Essick died April 11, 2015. She was 91. Rose Lydia Koumjian was born May 28, 1923, to Margaret and Peter Koumjian at home in Hollywood. She attended Valley View Elementary School, Le Conte Junior High School and Hollywood High School, and earned her bachelor's degree from UCLA.

After graduation, Rose was working as a "demonstration" teacher at UCLA when she was recruited to teach fourth grade at Emerson Elementary School in Burbank. During that time, she met and married John Essick. In 1951, they bought a home in Burbank, and Rose lived there until her death. Rose loved Burbank. She taught at Emerson for nine years, retiring when her first child was born, but continued volunteering in an after-school program called Released Time. She played tennis for many years at the Burbank

Tennis Center and was a member of the Burbank University Women.

Rose loved her country. Her parents were Christian Armenians who escaped the Armenian genocide by immigrating to the United States in 1906. Every Thanksgiving, Peter recounted the story of arriving with his young bride at Ellis Island on Thanksgiving Day and reminded his family how fortunate they were to live in "this land of opportunity."

Rose's father also instilled in her a love of the outdoors. As a child, she accompanied her parents on many camping trips to Yosemite National Park. After she married, the family camped all over the United States. Rose and John traveled extensively before his death in 1997.

Rose was a faithful Christian and an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood for almost 70 years. She taught junior high Sunday school with her husband for more than 35 years.

Rose is survived by her son John and his wife, Katie, of Portland, Oregon, their children, Eden of Brooklyn, N.Y., Wade of Portland and Devon of Portland; and son Peter and his wife, Jackie, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, and their son, Jalen.

Rose was beloved by her family and friends. Her family is thankful for her friends, including those who helped her remain independent until her death: Phyllis Maske, Carole Collard, Carolyn Franzle and Omar Batayneh, all of Burbank, and her physician, Dr. Mark Gerard.

A private family burial at Forest Lawn in Glendale will be followed by a memorial service at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30.

Contributions in Rose's memory may be made to the Rose Essick Youth Fund, First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, 1760 N. Gower St., Hollywood, CA 90028.

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- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burbankleader/obituary.aspx?n=rose-essick&pid=174697843#sthash.hBcgiTzx.dpuf>