



## Virginia Bridges Fiske

August 4, 1927 - January 7, 2021

Virginia "Jinny" Bridges Fiske

Age 93, of Pittsburgh, passed away on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

She was born in Framingham, Massachusetts, graduated from Simmons College School of Nursing in Boston in 1949, and received her Masters Degree from Boston University School of Nursing in 1957. She was last employed by the Allegheny County Health Department as a public health administrator. After retirement, she was an active volunteer at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Highland Park.

Her husband, Frederick Fiske, preceded Mrs. Fiske in death in 1995. Two nieces; five nephews; nine great-nieces; four great-nephews; three great-great-nieces; and two great-great-nephews survive her.

Remembrances may be sent to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia Bridges Fiske*

October 09, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ *Virginia Bridges Fiske*

October 06, 2023 at 11:36 AM

“ Our family had the chance to celebrate the life of my Great Aunt Jinny today with a Zoom call hosted by her church, St. Andrews, in Pittsburgh. We were so grateful to her church to allow us to come together in this unconventional way – one that has become all too much the norm these days. We are also beyond grateful to her caretaker, Michelle, who has become part of our family over the years she has spent caring for Jinny, and who was able to be with her in her last days, representing us when we couldn’t be there to hold her hand ourselves.

*Though it has been a few weeks since her passing, I was waiting for just the right words to come in order to honor her. How do you explain to the general public just how much someone, who on paper seems like a distant relative, deeply means to you? See, in our family, it is not that strange to have grown up knowing not only your first cousins, but your second cousins, your first cousins once removed, numerous great aunts and uncles, and even the children of your second cousins! (Second cousins once removed???). My friends all think it is so incredible, and even somewhat odd, that we not only know each other, but have many memories of camping, holiday gatherings, and ski adventures together. We’ve held each other during funerals, danced with each other at weddings, debated with each other in election seasons, and recently, gathered every Sunday on Zoom. And all of this was possible because of four incredible women, four sisters who were determined to instill in their descendants the importance of family and truly knowing those who share your roots. My Grammy, Marion Lowe (Harkness), was one of those women, and our Great Auntie Jinny (Virginia Lowe (Fiske)), was the youngest of the four, and the last of her generation to say goodbye to this earth and join the Mighty Lowe Women waiting for her up above.*

*When I was younger, I knew her as the one who was always the first to send the birthday card, graduation card, any holiday, and even the very first benefactor when I premiered my dance company, Meh-Tropolis, in Los Angeles. As an adult, and especially since*

*moving to Florida where the flight up to Pittsburgh and back was an easy weekend trip, I was able to visit her a couple times a year and truly know her. And to know her, is to be filled with inspiration to live with confidence and courage to make bold choices to live your best life. Auntie Jinny, and the Lowe women, instilled in our family DNA the importance of education - especially a women's right to that education - as well as one's right to make their own career choices and follow their passions. They did not suffer fools, nor cruel behavior, and they believed in the importance of family above all.*

*One of my favorite and most recent memories of Auntie Jinny was our singing a rousing chorus of "New York New York!" together during one of the Broadway singalong activities scheduled at her retirement home. I also enjoyed played Bingo with her and her friends, but I think I disgraced the family name with how many times I lost! I also loved just simply sitting and visiting with her while I put photos of all of her "great greats" into "Auntie Brag Books" for her, and also facilitating Facetime calls with those little ones around the country. The most memorable call was one in which I was able to connect her with my brother Billy, so that he could share the news that he and Sara were expecting baby Hazel. We went to the dining room at her retirement home after that call and she was so excited to share the news with everyone that another "Great Great was on the way!"*

*We all feel the void of Jinny in our lives, and the generation that she represented for our family. Auntie Jinny was a proud Aunt, Great Aunt and especially GREAT GREAT Aunt, but to all of us, she was truly AWESOME.*

---

**Sarah Harkness** - January 24, 2021 at 06:29 PM