

Cecilia Beard Harner
June 12, 1941-June 29, 2021



Cecilia 'Ceci' Beard Harner

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Cecilia “Ceci” Beard Harner, born June 12, 1941 to Harold Beard and Jeanette Peterson Beard in Long Beach, California, passed away peacefully surrounded by her adoring family on June 29, 2021.

Cecilia graduated from Anaheim Union High School in 1959 and later attended Fullerton Junior College where she met and married Barrie Clark on June 25, 1961.

She went on to raise three lovely daughters in Garden Grove, California.

She later divorced Barrie in 1981 and married Willard Harner in 1983.

Cecilia found great joy in singing! Her passion for music was spurred on in middle school and at the age of 16 when she performed a solo in a rendition of “The Messiah,” which was accompanied by a full orchestra.

She later toured across California singing in the Fullerton College Mozart Choir and even sang with Bobby Hatfield, a member of the Righteous Brothers!

Cecilia worked for 17 years as a law librarian for Rutan & Tucker, at the time Orange County's largest law firm.

With much anticipation and excitement, she retired with her husband, Willard, in 1998 to her beloved Joshua Tree, California. She relished every moment of retirement decorating the landscape of her "desert oasis," hosting family gatherings, singing in community and church choirs (the Hi Desert Chorus, The Doodles and the Desert Hills Presbyterian Choir), reading, participating in book clubs, designing beautiful stamp art cards, bird watching, line dancing and, most of all, following the lives of her precious grandchildren.

Cecilia had a servant's heart, volunteering as a deacon for the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, of which she was a 22-year member, for the Continuing Care Center, for the Philanthropic Educational Organization, Chapter GC, and for many organizations as secretary.

She always brought a smile to others in times of need and was loved by all for her vivacious personality, warmth and giving spirit. Cecilia truly lit up every room she entered and will be missed dearly.

At the end, Cecilia was comforted in the knowledge that she would soon be embraced by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and surrounded by long-lost family and friends.

Cecilia is survived by her husband, Willard Harner, daughters, Kelly Clark, Laura Takach and Kathy MacDonald, sons-in-law, Jon Takach and Joe MacDonald, four grandchildren, Shannon Pennywitt, Ryan Takach, Lexie MacDonald and Emilie MacDonald, brother, Andrew Beard, sister, Julia Shepperd, and nephews and nieces.

Cecilia's wish was that donations in remembrance of her be made to the church that she loved, Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, and/or the organization that was so dear to her heart, Desert Christ Park.