



## Myrna Tanner Gibson

August 15, 1935 - November 4, 2018

Myrna Tanner Gibson died peacefully on Sunday, November 4, 2018 after an extended illness. She was 83 years old.

Myrna was born in Show Low, Arizona on August 15, 1935, the second child of Don Carlos Tanner and Ecco Whipple Tanner. Her older sister, Phyllis, died before she was born. Her brother, Don Roe Tanner, joined the family 18 months after Myrna was born. They were inseparable as children and often were mistaken as twins.

Myrna attended Snowflake High School, where she graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 1953. She kept in contact with her classmates throughout the years and considered them to be among her choicest friends.

She attended the University of Arizona on scholarship, graduating with a teaching degree in 1957. She received a Masters degree in Special Education from Arizona State University shortly afterward.

She married Franklin K. Gibson in the Mesa Arizona Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on June 20, 1958. They had five children.

Myrna had a great capacity to love people. If she decided you were worth loving (and she deemed most people to be worthy of her love), she would love you fiercely and unceasingly.

She served in many calling in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1966, while still a young woman, she packed up her family on short notice to serve for three years with Franklin as the President of the newly organized Andes South Mission with headquarters in La Paz, Bolivia. She was pregnant with her youngest daughter, Liz, at the time the call came. She was homesick and overwhelmed with the primitive living circumstances, yet she served faithfully, learned Spanish, and gained a great love for the Bolivian people. And "her" missionaries knew that she loved them. Though 50 years have passed, many of them remained in contact with her up to the time of her passing. Her service continues to bless her extended family today.

Myrna served in the Stake Primary Presidency and later as Ward Relief Society President. She enjoyed teaching, especially teaching cultural refinement lessons in the Relief Society. They lived for many years in the Mesa Arizona Stake, where Franklin served as Bishop of the Mesa 13th Ward and later as President of the Stake. In 1987, they moved to

the Glenview Ward in the Mesa Kimball Stake, where she lived until she moved into a care facility two years ago. Her home was always immaculate and inviting.

She was a constant learner. When her children were older, she re-enrolled at Arizona State University and earned a Bachelors degree in Journalism at age 50. After graduating, she worked as a legal assistant to her husband until his death in 2003. She was an accomplished seamstress, poet, and author who was not satisfied with her work until it was perfect. One of her latest projects was a book about her experiences as a mission mother in Bolivia.

Myrna enjoyed attending concerts, plays, and sporting events to watch her children and grandchildren perform. Though she enjoyed gathering with the entire family, she preferred one-on-one time with her children and grandchildren. She made time for a special birthday lunch with each grandchild beginning with their 8th birthday.

She was an avid fan of the Phoenix Suns. Barkley. KJ. Steve Nash. Amar'e Stoudemire. Devin Booker. She cheered for each of them. And she agonized as the Suns floundered these past few years.

Myrna enjoyed traveling with family. As their family grew, Franklin and Myrna planned an extended family vacation every other year beginning in 1987. They also took each of their 18 grandchildren on a trip to various locations in the world (Bolivia, Europe, Guatemala, Italy, New York State, Hawaii, and Washington, DC), a tradition she continued after Franklin's death in 2003.

Myrna worked in the Mesa Arizona Temple for many years. She had a testimony of the power of the sealing ordinances and labored diligently to teach her family about gospel truths by her example.

She is survived by her five children, Scott Franklin Gibson (Rebecca), Phyllis Jean Clement (Wayne), Kathleen Myrna Carroll (Tim), Elizabeth Ann Marquez (Jim), and Paul Kay Gibson (Shellie), 18 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. She also is survived by her brother, Don Roe Tanner, and sisters-in-law Donna Tanner and Jean Porter.

Viewing will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2018, at Meldrum Mortuary, 52 North MacDonald, Mesa, Arizona. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 230 North Val Vista Drive, Gilbert, Arizona.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you perform an act of service in her memory.

# Cemetery

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## City of Mesa Cemetery

1212 N. Center St.  
Mesa, AZ, 85201

# Events

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**NOV 9** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Meldrum Mortuary  
52 N Macdonald, Mesa, AZ, US, 85201

**NOV 10** **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
230 N. Val Vista Dr., Gilbert, AZ, US

**NOV 10** **Graveside** 02:30PM

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City of Mesa Cemetery  
1212 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ, US, 85201

# Comments

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“ 50 files added to the album LifeTributes



Meldrum Mortuary & Crematory - November 09, 2018 at 05:07 PM

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“ Elders Creer, Peirce, Barney, Sitterud, purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Myrna Tanner Gibson.



Elders Creer, Peirce, Barney, Sitterud, - November 08, 2018 at 11:40 AM