



## Printy Eloise DeGraff

July 3, 1944 - May 20, 2020

It is with pride, gratitude, sorrow, and hope that we announce the passing of Printy DeGraff, who completed her mortal mission on May 20, 2020. Our pride stems from the righteous life she lived. Our gratitude for the positive impact she had on us and so many. Our sorrow for not having her with us for a season. Our hope that we may follow the covenant path and apply the atonement of Jesus Christ in our own lives, so we may be worthy of being reunited with her once again and forevermore.

Born to the late Louis Crandall and Louise Crismon on July 3, 1944 in Mesa, AZ, Printy was initially named Florence, but her three older brothers started calling her Printy – a combination of “princess” and “pretty” – and the name stuck. She enjoyed closeness to her family growing up, with her grandmother Elsie living under the same roof, and with her extended family gathering regularly at the family property in Camp Creek, AZ. Printy was an avid doll collector and amassed an award-winning collection of more than 125 dolls from various parts of the world, with some in perfect condition dating back to the 1700s. She also developed a love for dancing, which she refined during high school and put on display to win the crown of Miss Mesa 1961. A couple years later when her oldest brother opened the Old West-themed amusement park Legend City, Printy participated in the ribbon cutting and worked as a can-can dancer. After graduating from Mesa High School, Printy attended Arizona State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in education. Her training would serve her well, as she eventually taught every grade Pre-K thru 6 and ran an in-home daycare. While in college, Printy married her high school sweetheart Norman Leppla, and the couple had two children together. They relocated to Tucson, AZ and to Gainesville, FL for his work, and the couple was married for 16 years. In 1981, Printy married Richard DeGraff, whom she met at a church single adult dance, and the couple also had two children. By then, Printy yearned to live close to her mother again, so the family moved to Arizona in 1989 and settled in the Val Vista Lakes Community in Gilbert, AZ. There she raised her second set of children, finished her teaching career, and lived out the remainder of her days. In 2015, Printy was diagnosed with dementia, which caused the rapid deterioration of her health, and in 2020 she suffered a fall at home that ultimately led to her passing one month later at the age of 75.

Printy was beloved by all who knew her. Selflessness, gentleness, and happiness were her hallmarks. She could talk to anybody and make quick friends. Even as her memory faded, she remarkably retained her positive disposition. Printy was also faithful till the end. She was a devout member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, all her children were born in the covenant, she was sealed for time and all eternity to her dear husband of 38 years Richard, and all her married children have themselves been sealed to their spouses. She served in myriad church callings, mostly teaching children, and she was a performer for several years in the Mesa Easter Pageant, including three years as Eve.

Printy is survived by one of her three brothers, Don, by her husband Richard, and by her four children: Louanne Leppla (Joe Tillman) of Queen Creek, AZ, Rob Leppla of Gainesville, FL, Jonathan DeGraff (Melissa Bowman) of Austin, TX, and Heather DeGraff (Clay Cooper) of Queen Creek, AZ. Also surviving her are 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and a host of other cherished relatives and friends.

Printy will be interred at Mesa Cemetery, with funeral arrangements by Meldrum Mortuary. To share a memory of Printy or send a condolence to her family, please visit <http://www.meldrummortuary.com>. 🕊️

# Cemetery

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## **City of Mesa Cemetery**

1212 N. Center St.

Mesa, AZ, 85201

# Comments

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“ Printy (Mrs. Leppla, as I knew her) was such a positive force in my early life. I remember having dinner at her home in Gainesville, going shopping at Maas Brothers and being the lucky recipient of many sweet treats from her kitchen. We lost touch over the years but I never stopped thinking about her and the kindness she showed to me. She was beautiful inside and out, creative, kind, caring and a blessing to this world. My thoughts and prayers to her family.

Tom McCallum  
Gainesville, Fl.

Tom McCallum - December 15, 2020 at 09:38 AM

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“ What a tragic loss to education! Mrs. Defraud was a special lady! I had the privilege of working with her only 2 years but what a gem! Prayers to her family!!

Michael Brown - June 13, 2020 at 03:42 AM

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“ Printy was very special to us. She was my daughters teacher for kindergarten and 1st grade. Her and my daughter Haylee have their birthdays within a week of each other and sometimes we would get together around their birthdays to celebrate. She always said my daughter was an “old soul” because of how deeply they connected from the get go and my daughter is graduating high school this year and we just recently sent an announcement to her. Mrs. DeGraff always said she couldn't wait to be in the front row to see “her girl graduate”, now she has the best view in the house. We will never forget you and will miss you. To her family, I am so sorry for your loss.



Lorrie & Haylee Mueller - June 13, 2020 at 02:49 AM

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“ Printy was always so sweet to everyone And in many cases made you feel like family. Our son Will and her son Jonathan were best friends all through High School and became roommates at BYU. As our families blended through Church activities and baseball and wrestling we created many wonderful memories to be long remembered. Printy affectionately referred to Will as her “blue eyed” son as Jonathan has brown eyes. We always felt that was so sweet. Just a little glimpse into the heart of Printy. You are loved and will be missed! Bill and Patty Sykes, Will and Barbie.

**Bill Sykes** - May 27, 2020 at 06:07 PM

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“ Bill & Patty Sykes, Will & Barbie and Families purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Printy Eloise DeGraff.



**Bill & Patty Sykes, Will & Barbie and Families** - May 27, 2020 at 12:04 PM

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“ My Mom was the best one a little girl could hope for! She loved everyone without condition. Her smile was contagious! She loved little ones and was a well loved teacher for many years! She had a heart of pure gold. Thank you for sharing memories of my beautiful mother! I know there are so many lives she had an impact on! We are all truly blessed to have known her beautiful soul. I love you Momma! I'll see you again someday!

**Heather Cooper** - May 27, 2020 at 03:02 AM



“ Yes she was very special

**Lorrie & Haylee Mueller** - June 13, 2020 at 02:50 AM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Printy Eloise DeGraff.



May 26, 2020 at 02:54 PM

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“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Printy Eloise DeGraff.



May 26, 2020 at 10:51 AM

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“ Printy was always looking out for others, she was so kind. I remember many great things that Printy did but one of the sweetest was she always checked on the elderly lady across the street. Printy also shared her memories of growing up and Legend city and being a can- can dancer. Printy was just a treasure and one of a kind. All our love to the entire family



**Cher McCoy** - May 24, 2020 at 06:53 PM



“ How I loved Printy. She always had a smile on her face and radiated happiness it brought joy to all who knew her. She will certainly be missed. Love Helen Udall

**Helen Udall** - May 25, 2020 at 09:57 PM

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“ Printy and I are cousins. My mother and her father were siblings. She always made me feel special. She was truly a happy person who spread joy wherever she went. Sending hugs and prayers to her family.  
Debbie Nowell Amos

Debra Nowell Amos - May 24, 2020 at 05:05 PM

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“ Aunt Printy always was dress prefect, had her hair done so cute and had a big beautiful smile. I loved her laugh and kind and gentle nature, I miss her, but am so happy she is celebrating being with her parents and brothers and I'm sure they're laughing and reminiscing!

Lisa Crandall - May 23, 2020 at 06:16 PM