

Margaret (Calloway) Burns

November 24, 1933 – January 30, 2020

Margaret (Calloway) Burns was born Nov. 24, 1933 in Coolidge, Arizona to William Henry and Fay O. Higginbotham. She was an Arizona resident her entire life; 41 years in Coolidge and 45 years in Casa Grande.

Margaret took the bold step of entering the workforce in the early 1950s when her son, Steve, was just a year old. Though she only planned to work a few years to help make ends meet, it instead evolved into a satisfying and enduring career spanning four decades.

She started working at Arizona Title Guarantee and Trust Co., which later became First American Title Insurance Agency, as a Title Recorder. She became an Escrow Officer within a few years and in the early 1960s she became a Trust Officer. She was promoted to a Branch Manager in Casa Grande in 1973, and two years later relocated to Casa Grande.

In the early 1980s, Margaret was named Assistant County Manager for Pinal County and in 1993 she became Branch Officer for a new office in Catalina, north of Tucson. When the Catalina office closed in 1996 she returned to Casa Grande to handle high liability escrows. She retired on June 27, 1997.

Margaret was a member of Rainbow Girls Assembly No. 19 Coolidge, including Past Mother Advisor; Order of Eastern Star Ocotillo Chapter No. 36 Coolidge, including Past Worthy Matron, Jan. 1969; Casa Grande Historical Society and Alpha Epsilon Sorority, Casa Grande.

Margaret was an accomplished piano/organ player and singer. She played the organ at the United Methodist Church in Coolidge for 15 years and was called upon to play and/or sing at numerous events and celebrations in the Coolidge/Casa Grande area through the years. She loved dancing, traveling, playing golf, playing bridge, reading and her daily crossword puzzles and Jumbles.

Margaret was preceded in death by her partner of 25 years, Charles Lairmore of Casa Grande; nephews, Jerry and Billy Higginbotham of Coolidge; son, Master Sgt. Stephen L. Calloway of Casa Grande; grandson, James Brandon Bartels of Seattle, WA; brothers, Freeman and Bill Higginbotham of Coolidge; and parents, William Henry and Fay (Ward) Higginbotham.

She is survived by her two daughters, Marji Lynn (Calloway) Bartels of Sedona and Terri Lea (Calloway) Matlock of Casa Grande; daughter-in-law, Holly McConaghy (Calloway) of Casa Grande; sister, Reba Jo (Higginbotham) Walton and husband, Steve, nieces, Denise and Karen and nephew, Ken of Georgia; nephew, Eddie Higginbotham and wife, Janie (Spurgeon) and family of Tempe; niece, Deborah (Higginbotham) Savage and husband, Bill and family of Texas; niece, Patty (Higginbotham) Burton and family of California; nephew, James and wife, Michelle and family of Coolidge. She is also survived by eight grandchildren: Steve Calloway and wife, Amy of Casa Grande; Bill Calloway of Coolidge; Mike Calloway of Coolidge; Jason Bartels and wife, Andrea of Spokane, WA; Bridget Bartels of Burien, WA; September (Matlock) Sansone and husband, Paul of Gilbert; Travis Matlock and partner, Lauren of Van Buren, AR; and eight great-grandchildren: Jocelyn, Madison, Joe, Hannah, Colt, Macenzey, B.J. and Audra.

Contributions may be made on Margaret's behalf to the Casa Grande Historical Society. A private Celebration of Life will be held for family only.

