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and Surgeons**

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In Memoriam



Phyllis Ann Orient

1925 – 2022

“Ann,” the telephone voice of AAPS for nearly 30 years, took her last breath on Dec 11, 2022, at age 97, surrounded by family at home. In her last days, she was constantly cared for by her daughter Ruth and grandchildren Jeremy and Emily Snavelly.

Born in St. Joseph, Mo., she inspired her parents to “Go West” when she was about 17 years old, during very difficult economic times. She finished her last year of high school in Phoenix, Ariz. During the war, she worked in an ENT surgeon’s office, an extremely busy place because so many physicians were serving in the military. She assisted with all the procedures and kept the doctor informed on all the patients’ history and needs. The surgeon was so impressed that he offered to pay her way through medical school. Instead, she chose to marry William, her husband of 66 years, just after he returned from flying in a B-24 in the “Mighty Eighth” based in England, and raise four daughters.

“Ann” worked in her daughter Jane’s office every day from the time it first opened in 1981, until she was well into

her nineties. Her keen clinical intuition was invaluable.

When AAPS moved to Tucson in 1989, she took on the management of “Headquarters.” She spoke with thousands of patients and physicians from across the land. Until recently, she proofread every issue of AAPS News. She was the founder of the Grassroots Grannies, and played a big role in the lives of her seven grandchildren.

For years, Ann was a volunteer at the registration desk for AAPS annual meetings. She often would be at the reception room following a full day at the meeting, where all enjoyed her wit and charm.

During her last hospital stay, she sang “America the Beautiful,” then alternated it with the Lord’s Prayer, as the shades were open to let in the sun:

“O beautiful for spacious skies
Our Father Who art in Heaven
For amber waves of grain
Hallowed be Thy Name.

From purple mountain majesties
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
Above the fruited plain.

On every day
With daily bread
God shed his grace
On earth as it is in Heaven.

And crown Thy good
With brotherhood
Forgive us, lead us, deliver us
From sea to shining sea. Amen”



Ann’s Prayer, December 2022
Transcribed by daughter
Betsy Bernfeld