



## Ms. Iris Mary Rued

October 13, 1926 - June 20, 2023

Iris Rued passed away peacefully in Santa Rosa on June 20, 2023, in the presence of loved ones.

She was born Iris Mary Kirksey in Los Angeles, California, on October 13, 1926, and grew up in an exciting environment. Her father, Kelley Kirksey, was a policeman, and her mother, Hortense Kirksey, was a dramatic coach.

Iris was introduced to show business at an early age, learning acting, dancing, singing, and music. She attended Hollywood High School, having many other actors and actresses in her class.

She appeared in several movies, including “National Velvet” starring Elizabeth Taylor, and “The Underpup”, starring Gloria Jean. As a member of the dance group “The Jivin’ Jacks and Jills” she appeared in musicals starring Donald O’Connor and others.

During World War II she was a USO entertainer, singing and dancing at military bases throughout California.

In 1944 the family left Hollywood and moved to Sonoma County. There she met Wesley Rued of Healdsburg. They were married November 25, 1946. They eventually had 6 children.

Wes got a job at Sears in Santa Rosa, and they bought a house in the newly developed Montgomery Village in the early 1950's. Iris became a member of St. Eugene's parish, and the older children began their education at St. Eugene's School. In 1959 the family moved to St. Rose parish, and Iris became a member of that parish. She was active at St. Rose, and served as lector for many years. She was also a member of the Young Ladies Institute.

When her children were older, Iris took employment as a bookkeeper for a small business in the Roseland district of Santa Rosa.

She had many interests, and especially enjoyed going to Nevada to enjoy the casinos there. For several years she served as hostess on tour buses going to Reno or Lake Tahoe.

She also liked going to the monthly police auction in San Francisco.

She served on the Grand Jury in Sonoma County, and was very proud of her service.

She is survived by her sons Donald Rued, Michael Rued, Tim Rued, Randy Rued, and daughters Melissa Cox and Jennifer Ponzo, as well as multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Iris was known for her constant cheerfulness, and continued to brighten the lives of people around her right up to the end. The family extends special appreciation to the staff at Creekside Rehabilitation for their loving care of their mother.

# Tribute Wall



“ Hello past neighbors-- Iris was always welcoming and inviting with warm hugs. I have fun memories playing kick-the-can outside, birthday parties inside, and sometimes a background of Elvis Presley or Neil Diamond in the background. May your mom rest in peace. Conci

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**Conci McKinney-Mack** - July 09, 2023 at 10:07 AM