



Virginia E Gordon

October 4, 1931 - December 27, 2025

Princeton - Virginia Gordon affectionately referred to as "Jinny", peacefully passed into eternal life on December 27, 2025 at Goldwater Care Center in Princeton, IL. She is survived by her husband, William Frank Gordon.

Jinny was born in Princeton, IL on October 4, 1931 to her parents, Francis L. Smith and Ruth (Shaw) Smith. While attending Princeton High School, she met her future husband and the love of her life. She graduated from Princeton High School in 1949.

She and Frank were married on January 22, 1950 at the Methodist Church in Princeton, Illinois. Their first home was in Princeton, IL. In January of 2025, a celebration of their 75th wedding anniversary was held at Greenfield Retirement Home in Princeton, Illinois, where she was living with her husband.

Jinny was able to stay home, using her many talents to help her husband and raise their five daughters. Her husband started a new job in Kankakee, Illinois in 1962. They lived in Kankakee for 62 years, returning to their "hometown", Princeton, in July of 2024.

She was a very active volunteer in Asbury United Methodist Church of Kankakee, plus being a delegate to annual and general conferences of the United Methodist Church. She loved God and wanted others to know of the great love He showed to the world through Jesus. She was also a volunteer chaplain for 14 years at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee.

Jinny could often be seen around town walking, biking or swimming at the local YMCA. She swam until she was 93 years old. She was an outgoing, intelligent, kind woman, which blessed her with many friendships.

She is survived by her husband William Frank Gordon, daughters Wendy Nickoley of Rockaway, NJ and Jane Chap of Patagonia, AZ. Her surviving grandchildren are Jeramie Redman of Tucson, AZ, Elizabeth Fisher of Wichita, KS, Britt Harms of Manteno, IL, Christine Besser of Ft. Mill, SC, Daniel Nickoley of Auckland, New Zealand, Megan Lathrop of Roswell, GA,

Susan Cunningham of Tulsa, OK and Stephen Nickoley of Lake Hopatcong, NJ. She is also survived by her nieces, Dona Hildebrand of Princeton, IL and Mariellen Wick of Newark, IL. She had 22 great- grandchildren.

Proceeding her in death were her parents, Francis L Smith and Ruth Smith of Princeton, IL and Ft. Pierce, FL, and sister Anne Smith of Ft. Pierce, FL.

Also proceeding her in death were her three daughters, Ann Weakly Keisler, of Wichita, KS, Lynn Poole Fritz of Bloomingdale, IL and Lisa Ebersole of Bourbonnais, IL. One grandson, Eric Gordon, also preceded her in death.

A Celebration of Jinny's Life will be held on March 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm. At Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Doctors Without Borders www.doctorswithoutborders.org Kenya Division.

Online condolences may be made at www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Norberg Memorial Home Inc. & Monuments.

Previous Events

Celebration

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

DF

“ My condolences to Frank, Wendy and Jane. I still remember her loading up the girls in the station wagon to go to the Kankakee Park District swimming pool on those hot summer days back in the '60s. She was so friendly and outgoing.

David Finch - January 31 at 04:25 PM

LD

“ We, the Kankakee YMCA aquatics, was so saddened to hear of Jinny's passing. She and Frank swam daily for many years. Our hearts go out to Frank now, that he may have the strength to go on. You are in our prayers.

Linda Dunsworth - January 12 at 08:50 AM

PA

“ My condolences to Frank and to her family. I worked with Frank at The Daily Journal for many years. The Gordons were also my neighbors in Kankakee. They were a great couple. They were strong in their faith. They were great examples of how folks should live their lives.
Phil Angelo

Phil Angelo - January 04 at 03:37 PM

GK

“ Jenny Gordon was one of the strongest Christians I ever knew. She and her family were so wonderful to my family so many times! She was always there when I needed her. I also loved her pies which she made every day. I'm sure she's sitting at the right hand of God waiting for Frank to join her. Her whole family is in my prayers.

Glendal Kilbride - January 01 at 11:39 AM

PS

“ Thoughts and prayers to Jinny's family. I can picture Jinny, Mary Lou and my mom sitting around the kitchen table on a week day morning having coffee and talking for hours. When I would run into Jinny she was always smiling. I have wonderful memories of her. She was a beautiful person.

Paula Harpin Senesac - December 31, 2025 at 05:01 PM

PM

“ Love and prayers to Jinny's family. She was a good friend of my mothers. I remember when I was little so many "Coffee Clubs" with Joyce Eggers, Phyllis Malm, and Melvina Lewis.

Patty McDonald - December 31, 2025 at 04:56 PM

CD

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to Jinny's family.
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Carolyn Dailey - December 31, 2025 at 12:12 PM