



## Shirley Melvin

May 9, 1922 - July 25, 2011

Shirley Sears Melvin died July 25, 2011, in Fort Collins, Colo. She was 89. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 9, 1922, Shirley lived in Fort Collins since 1992. She was a proud veteran of World War II, serving as cryptographer in the Women's Army Corps. Shirley spent the war years decoding strategic communications from her post in Bermuda. She was fond of recalling her trip home to the U.S., after the war, in the nose of a B-17 bomber. Shirley was a passionate and active participant in veteran organizations including the VFW Auxiliary and the Women's Army Corp Veterans Association. She served as commander of the Queens County American Legion Women's Post in New York. Later, she organized and directed Veterans Day celebrations at the Fort Collins Senior Center for many years. She was a faithful member of John XXIII Catholic Church. Shirley volunteered with Boy Scouts of America and Incarnation Church in New York. In Colorado, she volunteered regularly at hospitals, churches and the senior center. A number of times, Shirley spoke enthusiastically to students at McGraw Elementary School about her wartime experiences. Shirley was a constant presence at her grandchildren's sports games, band concerts and birthday parties. A seasoned traveler in her retirement, she particularly enjoyed visiting Europe, China and the Panama Canal. Shirley is survived by her three daughters, Maureen Dieterich of Fort Collins, Anne Wakeford of Brewster, N.Y., and Ellen Melvin of Vero Beach, Fla.; her three sons, William Melvin of West Shokan, N.Y., Edward Melvin of Seattle, Wash. and Richard Melvin of Redding, Calif. She also leaves behind

nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William A. Melvin, her son, Charles Melvin, and her second husband, Stan Barrett. Well done, you good and faithful servant. Rest in peace.

# Tribute Wall



“ Shirley Melvin

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ Thank you, Richard, for your kind and thoughtful phone message regarding your Mom's passing. Neal and I always had a special place in our hearts for both your Mom and Dad, as you mentioned. Your father gave Neal his first job as a cleaner at Grover Cleveland High School. Next year, Neal will retire as C.E. of Forest Hills High School. We visited your Dad in his final months and your mother kept in touch with us over all of these years. We will especially miss her Christmas letters, filling us in on all the family news, her travels, etc. Our sympathy to all the family members as this most difficult time. Your mother is your mother; there is no other. No matter what, the loss is always profound. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Thanks, once again, for taking the time to notify us.  
Fondly,  
The Oldis Family

Neal & Ellen Oldis - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To the entire Melvin Family:  
I will never forget the opportunity that your Mom & Dad afforded me. They showed me kindness and helped direct me to a career that has allowed me to be fulfilled and provide for my family. I'm know you all realize what a "rock" your Mom was for your family. I'm sure she was greeted at the entrance to heaven with the words that were used at the end of her obituary...Welcome, you good and faithful servant !

Neal T. Oldis - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ It was a pleasure and a privilege to get to know Shirley. My thoughts & prayers go to her dedicated daughter, Maureen, and the rest of her family.

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**Lisa Aulwurm** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Loved your Mom. She was military through & through. Great woman. She would come find me to put her earrings in or find one she had dropped. We had many laughs together. She will be missed

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**Michele Hanna** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I have fond memories of Shirley on our many trips to Culver's (always with a coupon!), to McDonald's for an ice cream, the Dollar Store for pens and "relative specific" cards, and sessions organizing her jewelry and address/phone number cards. Her fun sense of humor insured that our times together were entertaining and she always had a good-bye hug for me. I wish I had taken a picture of the day when we wore alligator party hats into Parkwood and entertained the clients there. I will miss her!

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**Cathy Morgan** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Alot of folks from back east were asking about the funeral, so I I sent them this:

*Update on Mrs. Melvin*

*Please go to [www.goesfuneralcare.com](http://www.goesfuneralcare.com) to sign the guestbook and express your thoughts and memories of Shirley Melvin.*

*I attended the funeral services that lasted two days in Ft. Collins. As we all know Mrs. Melvin was a planner and even planned her funeral down to the smallest of details.*

*It was my first funeral in Colorado, so I did not know what to expect. And I was surprised.*

*Before the services, I met-up with Billy, Eddie and Rich (max) outside the Hilton hotel briefly. They all had shirts, ties and jackets on. My first surprise, haven't seen that before!*

*They took off to the church where Mrs. Melvin was being waked. Second surprise, a wake at the church.*

*I arrive a bit later and met with Anne and Maureen, Maureen lives in Ft Collins and has been watching and caring for Mrs. Melvin for many years, along with Bill her husband and two children Peter and Chris. Peter has two children, Mrs. Melvin's great grand kids.*

*The family would drop by on a regular basis, kind of a tag team approach. They all lived out of state with Bill and Anne in New York, Rich in California, Eddie in Seattle and Ellen in Florida.*

*Over the years Mrs. Melvin was very involved in veterans' affairs and acted as honor guard for others that have passed before her and served in the military.*

*As you know, Mrs. Melvin's always took notes and took ideas form*

*these other funerals that she liked.*

*She planned the entire funeral and made sure the kids had her to do list, that they followed it without any deviation.*

*My next surprise was she was wearing a military uniform and had many pictures of her life including Mr. Melvin's pictures, one where he was also wearing a military uniform.*

*Then to my complete and utter surprise was a pair of small brown baby shoes. Anne saw I was surprised and walked over to explained to me, that was her brother Charles shoes' who had died before Rich and her were born. I knew the Melvin's for more than 45 years and didn't know that.*

*The wake ended about nine pm and I was invited back to Maureen's house with the rest of the Melvin clan. Everyone was in good spirits and we threw down a few drinks. Maureen had a real nice spread of food on her kitchen counters and we all sat out on her deck talking, eating and drinking.*

*The next day (Friday at 11am) we all met back at the church for the funeral mass. Even the priest was selected by Mrs. Melvin and during the mass he talked about her and was very accurate.*

*When he was done, he invited the family up to talk about their mom. Even he was shocked when the entire family got up to talk, (one of Mrs. Melvin's wishes)*

*They all spoke haltingly, taking deep breaths and muster thru including her grandchildren, Peter and Chris.*

*Then another surprise as the family followed the casket out of the church there was a full military honor guard with guns. Her casket now draped in the US flag, stopped at a rifle with the bayonet stuck in the ground and an army helmet on the top of the rifle.*

*A bugler blew taps and the honor guard fired a 21 gun salute (very loud). The Sergeants removed the flag from the casket, folded the flag in proper military fashion and presented the folded flag to Maureen.*

*Then Rich, Ed, Billy, Bill (Maureen's husband) Peter and Chris escorted the casket to the hearse where Mrs. Melvin would be taken to be cremated (her wish)*

*At a later date, not yet known, Mrs. Melvin's ashes will be flown to NY and be buried with Mr. Melvin with a grave side ceremony.*

*Getting the entire Melvin family together may take some time and even till next summer;*

*Mrs. Melvin wants them all there.*

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**The Clarks** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *My thought and prayers are with you all. I remember Mrs. Melvin as being stern but once you got to know her she was a sweetheart and a very caring person. I remember my days of going to Atlantic Beach with her, having Christmas Breakfast at their house and going shopping and having lunch with her. She was and will always be a GREAT lady.....*

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**Donna M Rivera** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Your mother is always with you...  
She's the whisper of the leaves  
as you walk down the street.  
She's the smell of bleach in  
your freshly laundered socks.  
She's the cool hand on your  
brow when you're not well.  
Your mother lives inside  
your laughter. She's crystallized  
in every tear drop...  
She's the place you came from,  
your first home.. She's the map you  
follow with every step that you take.  
She's your first love and your first heart  
break....and nothing on earth can separate you.  
Not time, Not space...  
Not even death....  
will ever separate you  
from your mother....  
You carry her inside of you....*

*Anonymous*

*My Mom, my rock...The "rock", that I clung to -  
The place, where I could turn  
When, nowhere else would do.  
Now, the ravages of time  
Have worn my "rock" away -  
And all I have to cling to  
Are memories of yesterday.*

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**Anne Wakeford** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I just want all of the Melvins to know how truly saddened I was to hear of your mom's passing.

*When I think about growing up in Queens Village in the Sixties and Seventies, I think of Mrs. Melvin and the Melvin house, where I spent most of my tim tagging along with my sister Donna and her best friend Anne! Mrs. Melvin was always nice to me, even when I had to call my father at 3 a.m during a sleepover (YES, I was tagging along again with Donna) to come and get me because I was homesick...though we only lived maybe ten houses apart! Mrs. Melvin was firm but fair, and in these last few years she always made time to call my mom, Nancy and talk to her about the old neighborhood as well as what was new in BOTH their lives. MY dad passed away three years ago so I know Shirley's calls meant a lot to my mom and definitely filled a gap. Shirley Melvin, you will be missed! Rest in Peace.*

*All of my love, Jackie.*

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**Jaqueline Tobin** - July 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM