



## Virginia Febinger

July 7, 2025

Virginia Febinger passed away peacefully at age 101 on Monday, July 7, 2025 at Lemay Avenue Health and Rehab Facility in Fort Collins under the care of Pathways Hospice. The family is planning a private memorial, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Virginia Febinger was born in Denver, Colorado on January 18, 1924, the only child of Finley Gose and Zoe Davis Gose. She was raised in Denver and spent several summers in Grand Junction with her maternal grandparents. She attended Denver Public Schools, was active in Camp Fire Girls, and graduated from East High School in 1941. Virginia's nursing interest began at a young age due to her disabled father's early passing when she was 16. She attended the University of Denver and Children's Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1946 as a Registered Nurse with a B.A. in Education. Prior to the end of World War II she was inducted into the Nurse Cadet Corps and worked a year in Virginia during her nurse residency.

In 1950 she began working as a nurse for Denver Public Schools. She renewed an acquaintance with George Febinger, a friend from East High School, and they wed on March 24, 1951 at Park Hill Methodist Church in Denver. They were married 56 years before George's passing in 2007. They were blessed with the adoption of their daughter, Nancy, in 1956.

Virginia completed a Masters Degree in Personnel Services at University of Colorado in Boulder in 1966. She also obtained a Nurse Practitioner license in 1979. In 1963 their family moved to Fort Collins when George continued his teaching career in the education department at Colorado State University. Virginia became a school nurse in the Poudre School District in 1964 and retired in 1984. She went on to substitute as a nurse in the Thompson School District. She was honored as District Nurse of the Year in 1978.

After retiring, Virginia pursued her second career as Ginger the Clown. She brought joy and entertained children and adults of all ages with her balloon sculpture animals, clown magic, and face painting at birthday parties, school programs, community gatherings, and other events. She "clowned around" from 1984-2005. She also volunteered with Spellbinders at Shepardson Elementary and 4th graders enjoyed her storytelling for 10 years.

George and Virginia loved spending time in the mountains at their cabin in Crystal Lakes, which they built in 1979. Virginia played the piano throughout her life, and often accompanied George when he sang. Together they were active with the Fort Collins Symphony and other local musical and theater groups. They enjoyed traveling and made several trips to Europe, where George sang with the CSU choir.

She was a proud member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, and many other organizations including the American Red Cross, Colorado Nurses Association, National Ski Patrol, Colorado Clowns, Poudre Retired School Employees Association, Front Range Computer Users Group, and Presto-Digitators magic club. She loved animals, in particular Boston Terriers, and trained her dog Misty as a therapy dog. She volunteered with Northern Colorado Therapy Dogs and Larimer Animal-People Partnership.

George and Virginia moved to The Winslow in 2004. During her 16 years

there, Virginia formed many friendships with both staff and residents. She remained active with her quilting and knitting groups with whom she had many meaningful friendships. She had a strong faith and was a member of the Unity Church. Virginia was grateful to have her loving family close by. Her family feels blessed to have so many fond memories of her wonderful presence in their lives.

Virginia is survived by her daughter Nancy Rudeen, son-in-law Larry, three granddaughters Amber Rudeen, Sarah Rudeen, and Brianne Liptak (husband Denney), and three great-grandchildren Elise, Dane, and Milo Liptak, a niece, nephew and their families.

During her amazing 101 years, she lived a wonderful life bringing joy to all who knew her, with her positive attitude, care for others, a smile and laughter. She loved to share her stories and learn from others. She will be greatly missed by her family and her memory will live on in all who knew and loved her.

The family wishes to thank Pathways Hospice and the Lemay Avenue Health and Rehab Facility staff, nurses and physicians for their kindness and care during the past five years.

If you would like to make a donation to honor her life, please consider the Poudre School District Foundation Compassion Fund, Pathways Hospice, or Unity Church.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Virginia was my second mother thanks to being best friends with her daughter Nancy. She was always available with quiet advice and could keep a secret. She led the way to joining ski patrol which became a life long adventure for me. It is where I met my husband and learned to save lives. Thank you Virginia for guiding me, it not only made a difference in my own life, it expanded to helping others. You are missed but never forgotten!

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**Marilee Brown** - August 03, 2025 at 10:08 PM

SG

“ Virginia jumped on my train of life in the early 2000's when I moved to Fort Collins and joined the Fort Collins Alumnae chapter of Gamma Phi Beta. I loved hearing Virginia's stories of her experience as a nurse and as Ginger the Clown. She was a loyal Gamma Phi and very supportive to me especially when I stepped into the role of alumnae chapter president. She was always so pleasant, caring and positive. It was a pleasure to know her. I will miss her big smile.

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**Sharon Green** - July 23, 2025 at 07:10 PM

DR

“ So many memories...Virginia as a school nurse, George and my Dad working together at CSU, and Saturday night dinners at their home after Nancy and I put on a "show" for them. Rest in peace.

*Debra Cole Reider*

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**Debra Cole Reider** - July 14, 2025 at 02:29 PM

CH

“ I knew "Ginger" when she was clowning around throughout town. We met at the PSD administration building when I was in the curriculum department. I adored her for many reasons. Such a bright, funny, loving woman. And I marveled at her ability to win over children and adults with such ease. I also knew George through my work with the symphony. He wrote the history of the symphony with dedication. Virginia made a difference in the lives of so many people, never seeking acclaim. We have lost an angel. Now she rests. Carol Ann Hixon

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**Carol Ann Hixon** - July 13, 2025 at 01:12 PM

PB

“ Virginia and George were friends through the school district and neighbors when they lived in the duplex on Centennial. We loved seeing Ginger the Clown many times and hearing their musical performances. But my two favorite memories of Virginia are of her telling with a huge smile that she was "counting the days to retirement" because she had so much to do, and of her organizing the van to bring the Winslow group to The Mostlies performances and then laughing when we included that in some of our songs and skits.

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**Patty Bell** - July 13, 2025 at 11:24 AM

JA

“ I knew Virginia through the Colorado Nurses Association. She was a wonderful example of professionalism. Virginia was a lot of fun and I am so glad our life paths crossed.

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**Janie Arndt** - July 13, 2025 at 09:09 AM

PT

“ Virginia was a wonderful, kind person. I first met her at Unity Cooperative Preschool and she came to entertain as Ginger the Clown for many years. I learned so much from her about a child’s sense of humor and how to best encourage it in preschoolers. I have and will continue to think of her with love and respect. I send much love to her family.

pam Timms - July 12, 2025 at 10:02 PM

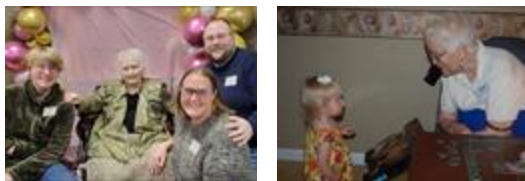
DP

“ I met Ginger many years ago at a clown convention and we hit it off right away. I always looked forward to the next one when I could see her again. She was a very gentle clown and so many loved her. May her light continue to shine through memories.  
Dena "DeeNee" Piraino

Dena Piraino - July 12, 2025 at 09:14 PM

HE

“ It's hard to believe that I met Virginia 18 years ago when I started as a wait staff member at The Winslow. From 2007-2020, she was my puzzle buddy, she celebrated my wedding, she was one of the first residents to meet my baby girl 14 years ago, and she was my friend. I stayed in touch after Virginia moved out of The Winslow and I was so thankful that my family and I were able to attend her 100th birthday party. She is such an incredible person and I am so fortunate to have had her in my life!



Heather Everett - July 12, 2025 at 08:37 PM

JO

“ I met Ginny, George and Nancy through the National Ski Patrol System in the 1970's at Hidden Valley.

Ginny's obituary accurately describes her accomplishments throughout a well-lived life. She had a heart and soul bigger than life itself; her impact on the people with whom she crossed paths, and the good she did, is permanent.

To you, Nancy, and to your family, I send my condolences. I believe your mom's spirit will continue to spread kindness. She was a remarkable woman.

Judy Morrison Osterlund  
Harbor Springs Michigan

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**Judy Morrison Osterlund** - July 12, 2025 at 05:32 PM

TR

“ ,/Ginger the Clown did a birthday party for my daughter, Megan, at Foothills Gateway many years ago!! She was wonderful with Megan and the other clients who were part of her class at the time. I think I met Virginia through a neighbor who was also a nurse. I still have a copy of a recipe for a breakfast cake that Virginia gave me sometime or other!! Memories continue beyond our expectations!!

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**Trish** - July 11, 2025 at 07:21 PM

BF

Bruce and I were so sorry to hear that Ginny passed away. She and George were always bright lights in the community, and they are both sorely missed. Sending our love, Bruce and Denise Freestone

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**Bruce and Denise Freestone** - July 13, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - July 11, 2025 at 03:15 PM**