



## Virginia L. Schwager

November 15, 1924 - December 8, 2013

Virginia L. Schwager Sister Gertrude of Providence, Age 89  
Born in Royal Oak, November 15, 1924 – Deceased December 8, 2013  
Director of Dietetics, Providence Hospital, Seattle, WA 1948 – 1955,  
Administrative Resident, St. Francis Hospital and Rehabilitation Center,  
Pittsburgh, PA 1956 – 1957, Assistant Administrator, St. Vincent Hospital,  
Portland, OR 1957 – 1958, Administrator, Providence Hospital, Everett, WA  
1958 – 1961, Administrator, Providence Hospital, Seattle, WA 1961 – 1972,  
Director Division of Health Affairs, United States Catholic Conference,  
Washington DC 1972 – 1975, Assistant to the Chancellor, Georgetown  
Medical Center, Washington DC 1972 – 1975, President, Michigan Catholic  
Hospital Association, Lansing, MI 1976 – 1989, President Schwager  
Foundation 1988 – 2011 During her career, Virginia was an active member of  
the healthcare community in the United States. She was instrumental in many  
of the changes to patient care and healthcare legislation that we enjoy today.  
She held many state and national positions, including Commissioner of the  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals from 1973 – 1976. She  
authored numerous papers on improving patient care through the creation of  
standard menus, single patient rooms and nursing station design, and was  
influential in working with Medicare to allow patients to stay in single patient  
rooms. She traveled extensively through Australia presenting the concepts  
that were implemented at Providence Hospital. Awards Received: 1964 -  
Seattle's Top Ten Women

1965 - Theta Sigma Phi – Matrix Award 1968 - Who's Who of American Women 1970 - Phi Kappa Theta, Women of the Year 1975 - Who's Who of International People 1989 - Distinguished Alumni Award, St Louis University, Department of Hospital and Health Care Administration In her retirement, she started the Schwager Foundation, in the 22 years that the foundation existed, provided 185 scholarships to college students. She believed that higher education was very important and she wanted to provide assistance to the "young people" of her community. She loved her family and enjoyed the births, graduation parties and weddings of her many nieces and nephews once she returned to Michigan. She loved technology and thought the creation of the internet and email was one of life's great joys. She corresponded frequently with her friends throughout the world and her many nieces and nephews, taking and sharing pictures. She lived the majority of her retirement in a senior community, appropriately named Providence, where she cherished the friends she made and enjoyed the many trips organized within the community. She had a great love of life and lifelong yearning for knowledge. She was fascinated to meet new people and to ask them about their personal journey.

Parents: The Late Henry and Agnes Schwager

Brothers and Sisters: Eleanor Raylea Orchard Park, NY, Gertrude Sam Fabiano, Sisters-in-law Peg Schwager, Rosemary Schwager, 163 Nieces and Nephews and the late George Shirley and Carol Schwager, Henry Dorothy Schwager, Elizabeth Paul Janness, Ralph Schwager, Robert Kay Schwager, Bernadette Charles Lowe, Rev. Edmund Schwager and Raymond Schwager

In remembrance of Virginia Schwager, donations may be made to:

Hospice Compassus

30665 Northwestern Highway

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ Dear Schwager Family, Ginny always brightened whatever room she entered. Her sincere interest in and concern for others made her welcome wherever she went. Seeing her at church was a great joy to both Jim and me. We will miss her.

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**Diana Lee and Jim Moseley** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I will forever cherish the memories I have of taking Grandma Peggy Schwager and Aunt Ginny to Stratford on Avon to see "The King and I." Aunt Ginny had an contagious love of the theatre, and was one of the most fascinating conversationalists I have every had the pleasure of speaking with. Her service to the community and the country is an example that I would aspire to live up to. She is a true role model for women.

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**Jaye Scullo** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear Schwager family, I am remorseful about your loss and like to extend my deepest sympathy for your loved one Virginia Schwager. From personal experience I know that the death of a love one causes pain and grief and sometimes it seems unbearable. The Scriptures contain comfort that can assist us during times of distress. The ransom of Jesus and the hope of seeing my loved one again in the resurrection brought me comfort. I would like to share these three scriptures with you to give you comfort John 5:28, 29, Acts 24:15 and Romans 15:4. May the God of comfort give you peace and rest.

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**Mrs Higgins** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM