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Rose Lee Tom



March 11, 1927 - Jan. 24, 2022

Rose Lee Tom, a longtime resident of Moraga, California, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 in Gilroy, California from problems due to heart and kidney failure. She was 94 years old.

Rose was born in Oakland, California on March 11, 1927, the youngest of four children and the only one of the family to be born in the United States. She attended schools in Oakland, graduating from Oakland Tech High School in 1945. She next went to UC Berkeley receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in January 1949. At Cal she met John, an engineering student who had just been discharged from the Army. They were married on Easter Sunday in 1949.

Rose and John raised their family in Oakland and she became very active in their sons' school, helping in the classrooms and driving on field trips. She served as Cub Scout den mother and was the president of the Jefferson Elementary School PTA. In 1996 the family moved to Moraga, where she continued as a school volunteer. Rose became involved in the Femeineers (a group of wives of civil engineers), the Scottish Rite Ladies Club, and, with several friends, founding the Moraga Garden Club. She was active in the Moraga Historical Society, volunteered at the Moraga Library and served as an elder at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Rose had many hobbies such as knitting, sewing and reading, and was particularly proud of her beautiful garden. Later

Rose got her real estate license and worked for many years as a realtor. With John she has traveled around the world, visiting all continents with the exception of Antarctica. In 2019 she and John moved into Merrill Gardens, a senior community in Gilroy to be nearer to her eldest son Larry.

Rose is survived by her husband John, her two sons Larry and Russell, daughters-in-law Kathy and Susi, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Rose's life will be held at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga, CA 94556, on Saturday, March 5 at 3 p.m. Donations can be made in her honor to the Moraga Garden Club, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

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