



Marlene Girouard

December 15, 1941 - March 30, 2026

Marlene Girouard, 84, of Gainesville, Virginia, passed away of natural causes in her home on March 30, 2026.

She was born to George Bluvas and Clara Bluvas on December 15, 1941, in Omaha, Nebraska. She was the 3rd oldest of 8 children. She grew up in Omaha, attending South High School and then Creighton University, eventually earning a B.A. in Accounting. She was one of the first in her family to attend college. While at Creighton, Marlene met her husband, Richard Girouard. They were married in 1963 and started a family while moving around the country to locations including Fort Knox, Fort Benning, GA, Monterey CA, Fort Belvoir, VA and Norfolk, VA - wherever the U.S. Army sent them. They eventually settled in Alexandria, Virginia with three sons and two daughters.

Marlene was a deeply loving, kind, and adventurous person. She had to be to raise a large family while moving around the country. She loved exploring and trying new things. They went on many outdoor adventures as a family with Marlene, allowing the kids to roam and explore and develop an adventurous attitude with a strong sense of independence. She developed friendships across the country, many of which lasted a lifetime.

After her kids grew up and scattered to the wind, and Richard passed,

Marlene moved to Heritage Hunt in Gainesville, VA in 2003. From there, she started to travel - a lot. Often, to see her kids at the various places they called home (Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, London, New York, North Carolina, Southern California). Or sometimes, back to Omaha to maintain her bonds with family and friends. However, on many occasions, she chose to visit places simply because she had never been there before. Skiing in Tahoe, flying over Denali, and retreating to an ashram in India are just a few examples.

Her main traveling companions included several of her friends and siblings. She visited her son Rick and his wife Sharon in Alaska and they had marvelous adventures. Once she came up to Alaska with her son Mike, and daughter Cathy and they went on a snowmobile adventure. Even though she had never been on one before, she took off like a rocket, enjoying the nice day and view of Denali Mountain at high speed. Another time Marlene visited Alaska with her sister Charlene and brother Ron. She got her first try at riding an ATV and over some rough trails at that!

In her later years, Marlene's favorite travel partner was her dear and beloved companion, Daniel B. Taylor also of Heritage Hunt. Dan passed in 2022.

Marlene was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Marlene is survived by her sons Rick (Sharon) Girouard of Anchorage, AK; Mike (Elizabeth) Girouard of Summit, NJ; Jim (Kim) Girouard of Raleigh, NC; her daughters Mary Clark of Colorado Springs, CO; and Cathy Riedel of Springfield, VA; her sisters Donna Maresch; Patty Smith; and Charlene Stender all of Omaha, NE; and Kathy Sondag of Arlington VA; She is also survived by ten grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Clara Bluvás, her

sister LaRiene Petrovich, her brothers George and Ron Bluvas, and her husband, Richard Girouard.

A private ceremony for the family will be held at Quantico National Cemetery, Quantico, Virginia on May 1, 2026, where she will be laid to rest next to her husband. This will be followed by Marlene's Celebration of Life that will be open to all at Bel Air 1740 at 14513 General Washington Drive Prince William, VA 22193, about 25 minutes south of D.C. The celebration is from 2pm to 5pm.

Memorial donations can be made in Marlene's honor to the Essential Tremors Foundation (<https://essentialtremor.org>) and the Alzheimer's Association (<https://www.Alz.org>).

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 1. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Bel Air 1740
14513 General Washington Drive
Prince William, VA 22193

Private Family Burial

MAY 1 (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall

NA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



nancy - April 25 at 07:30 PM

TA

“ Marlene brought so much warmth and joy to the Taylor family. I remember when she first started accompanying us on our annual OBX trip and she showed up with all the same kinds of food that I liked to eat! We bonded over living a healthy lifestyle and ways in which we cared for and supported ourselves. She has been an inspiration to me and I will miss her dearly.

Taylor - April 21 at 11:13 AM

TA

I also really enjoyed her sense of adventure. One evening we sat and chatted about all of the places she ever lived. I remember her saying that "most people feel overwhelmed by having to move, but I got excited!" I will carry this spirit with me on all of my life adventures. <3

Taylor - April 21 at 11:17 AM

VF

“ My condolences to all Marlene's friends and family. She was such a sweet person. I was grateful that she showed up in Dan Taylor's life and brightened the years they spent together. And grateful that I got to know her at Taylor family reunions and occasions. I enjoyed all our conversations over the years, and I am so sad to think I won't get to spend time with her again. She will be missed! -Vicky Funari

Vicky Funari - April 20 at 02:11 PM

CR

“ We did not know Marlene well but she was an annual guest at our family's Easter egg hunt. Her presence there was always delightful! We looked forward to hearing about her adventures and travels and sharing memories about her youngest daughter Cathy and our daughter Kim.
We were so sad to hear of her passing and send our sincere sympathy to her family and friends. She was a great lady!

Christine Randolph - April 18 at 09:37 AM

NT

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



nancy taylor - April 14 at 09:22 PM

MB

We will miss you, Marlene! Thank you for finding PapPap! Seeing the two of you spending such great times together locally and through your travels all over the US to see all the kids and grandkids and great-grands was absolutely wonderful! You are a GEM! Love and miss you, Melanie

Melanie Taylor Bounds - April 15 at 10:59 AM

MG

We sure will miss you Marlene! We were so happy my dad found you after losing our mom. You were such a wonderful companion and more for him and such a bonus that you became family to us! I will never forget the times we shared together and many chats to catch up over coffee after my dad passed. So wonderful you could join us this past Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations! You will surely be missed by my entire family. Rest in peace my dear friend ❤️

Michelle Gayoso - April 30 at 08:22 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donna Maresch - April 13 at 06:22 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donna Maresch - April 13 at 06:18 PM

DM

Our Minnesota trip.

Donna Maresch - April 13 at 07:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Girouard - April 13 at 02:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Girouard - April 13 at 02:17 PM