

In Memoriam ...

Penny Gearou

This "memory book" was just about to go to press when we heard the shocking, unthinkable news.

So we pulled it off press immediately, and rearranged it to include this page.

If we gave it a thought at all, I think we all honestly believed that Penny would go on forever. After all, she always *had* been there, at whatever age she was. And what age was that, anyway? – Penny was ageless, and timeless, and a lot more energetic than most of us supposedly younger folks.

She was a driving force behind all the reunions. Not

just murmuring encouragement from the sidelines but, like everything she did in life, totally involved. The fun you had here through the years was – in very large part – thanks to her untiring efforts.

The newspaper wrote her a nice obituary (reprinted below in case you missed it). Still, nothing they could write can recapture her infectious enthusiasm, her inexhaustible energy, her lightness of heart and caring spirit.

She was our den mother. She was supposed to be there always. But now she's gone.

And we miss her.



Memories of Penny: at the 1991 reunion ... then in 2005, dancing with Butch ... in charge at the podium ... and with Jim and Alicia.



Gearou

Annie "Penny" Gearou, 79, passed away on Wednesday March 23, 2005. She was born in Wahiawa, HI on December 24, 1925 to Hark and Myung Han. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces. Penny was retired from Federal Civil Service after 30+ years where she worked in the Civilian Personnel Office as a Staffing Specialist. She was an active member of Senior Olympics of New Mexico as an athlete and as a volunteer. She was the 2003 Dee Harris Award winner as the Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year in the Dona Ana County Senior Olympics. She was selected the 2003 Female Golden Athlete of the Year for the state of New Mexico.

She was an avid bowler



throughout her adult life and was a fixture in the Wednesday Night Latecomers League and multiple bowling events in Senior Olympics. She was a member of the 70 year old and over team in 2002 that set the state women's team record in Sr.

Olympics. She had attended the National Senior Olympics with her late husband in the Mixed Doubles competition. She was also active in and had won numerous awards for shuffleboard and billiards. Her other love in her life, after Senior Olympics, was the White Sands Missile Range "Kids" Reunion Committee – she and her "children," Butch and Doris Davis, Elaine and Mike Shoberg, Tommy and "Dutch" Matkin, Leilani Horton and Larry Fiedler.

She is survived by her daughter Mary Jane Lundy and son-in-law George W. Lundy, son James W. Crouch and daughter-in-law Susie Crouch, daughter Catherine Ann Crouch-Bay and son-in-law Steven Bay, son Russell James Gearou, Jr. and daughter-in-law Joyce Craig, son Michael V. Gearou and daughter-in-law Shirley Scafuri-Gearou and 5 grandchildren, Brian M. Kurlak, George "Troy" Lundy, Maile A.

Bay, Susan L. Gearou and Alicia A. Crouch, her brother Daniel Loo of California, sister Marie Malesic of Honolulu, HI, nieces Yvonne Semis and Diane "DeeDee" Israel, Wendy Malesic and nephews J.R. Malesic and Troy Malesic.

She is preceded in death by her husband Russell James Gearou and son Robert Charles Gearou and sister Mildred Semis.

Pallbearers are three of her "sons": Tom Kita, Butch Davis and Mike Shoberg.

Visitation will be held Tuesday March 29, 2005 from 5-7p.m. at Getz Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Wednesday March 30, 2005 at 11a.m. also at the Getz Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home, corner of Bowman and Solano, Las Cruces. 526-2419. For personal condolences log on to www.GetzFuneralHome.com