



Mrs. Elizabeth Caldwell Grainger

May 14, 2012

Elizabeth Grainger, 87, died peacefully at her daughter's residence in Plant City, Florida, on May 14, 2012. She was born on November 12, 1924 in Buffalo, NY, to Henry Hyatt Caldwell and Alma Osborn Caldwell. She lived in the United States for the first five years of her life and upon her father's death she and her family moved to Europe.

She was brought up in France, Italy and Belgium in the 1930's to early 1940's. In 1940, she and her mother were living in Rome, Italy, and due to hostilities between America and Italy during WWII, they were transported to Merano, Italy, to be interned with other Americans. They were interned for over a year and in 1942 were located by the Red Cross. They were repatriated to the United States by negotiations that involved the release of Italian POWs. She attended Stephens College and University of Nevada and later the S.E. Asia College in Hong Kong.

She met her husband, Joseph William Grainger, in Phoenix, AZ, at a ball given by her uncle Sidney Preston Osborn, Governor of Arizona (1941-1948), and they married in New York City, NY, on April 21, 1951.

She accompanied her husband, a US Air Force pilot, to Okinawa, Japan in the early 1950's and to Vietnam in the early 1960's when he worked with USAID. In August 1965 he was illegally kidnapped by the Viet Cong and she moved to

Bangkok with her four children to wait for his release however her husband was murdered by the Viet Cong in January 1966. His body was located and retrieved by US Army and returned to the United States for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. On August 5, 1965, at Washington D.C., she received the Secretary's Award from Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, "honoring her husband as a hero of peace who made an individual sacrifice of the highest degree in performance of official duties".

In the mid 1960's she was the Society/Woman's Editor for the Bangkok World and in the 1970's and 1980's was an U.S. government translator in Hong Kong, London, Rome and Paris. She returned to the United States in 1987 and lived in Winter Park where she wrote fiction, was an active member of a writing critique circle, and a member of the DAR Chapter in Winter Park. She also enjoyed traveling and gardening.

Elizabeth is survived by four children, Jonathan Caldwell Grainger and wife Lee Ann of Charlottesville, VA, Madeleine Grainger Kavanagh and husband Michael of Vallejo, CA, Andrea Hyatt Grainger of Plant City, FL, and Robert Calhoun Grainger and wife Donna of Mechanicsburg, PA, by her sister-in-law Margaret Grainger Herzlich and husband Eric of Avon, CT. She has eleven grandchildren that include Joseph Grainger, Taegan Grainger, Eilish Grainger, Jake Dillon Grainger, Michael Kavanagh, Joseph Kavanagh, Andrew Kavanagh, Therese Kavanagh, Rachel Kavanagh, Robert-John Kavanagh, and Graeme Grainger.

Memorial services will be held at 9 am on June 6, 2012, at Arlington National Cemetery where she will be interred beside her husband. Memorial donations may be made to Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) at P.O Box 849, Galt, CA 95632.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Graveside

JUN 6. 9:00 AM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *This is a wonderful tribute and memorial to the life a grand Lady, my sweetheart's Mom, Elizabeth, who has passed from our experience for now. Reading her obit and browsing the photos that chronicle her journey show what an interesting life she had, full of joy and sorrow, love and loss in equal measure. It is clear that she experienced the fullness of life, if anyone has. I shall miss her.*



Tom Clark - June 03, 2012 at 12:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Mom & grandmother Grainger receiving Dad's hero's award*



Andrea Grainger - June 03, 2012 at 08:55 AM

JB

Dear Andrea,

We are so very sorry to learn that the world has lost the lovely Elizabeth Grainger. I met her on two occasions, but my mother knew her well and spoke fondly of her and how they met 50 years ago. The year must have been 1963 when my parents (Marc and Olivia Huet) were stationed in Vietnam with USIS. Both my mother and Elizabeth had to be medically evacuated from Saigon to Clark AFB Hospital in the Philippines. The hospital was considered good, but conditions there were very rough by today's standards. My mother was in for major surgery, but Elizabeth was suffering a more serious medical problem. Mother spoke of comforting Elizabeth after the doctors gave her a very grim prognosis. How frightening it must have been for her, and mother said she worried terribly about her young children. Happily, the story ended well and Elizabeth went on to enjoy a long and wonderful life with her family. My mother (age 90) joins me in sending warm wishes and deep sympathy to everyone in your family. What an incredible life!

Best regards,

Jacqueline Bridges and Olivia Huet

Jacqueline Huet Bridges - June 12, 2012 at 01:07 PM



“ *Mama's obituary can be found in the Washington Post and Orlando Sentinel newspapers.*

Andrea Grainger - June 03, 2012 at 06:06 AM

AG

“ *1 file added to the album Mom and Madeleine, Japan, mid 1950's*



andrea grainger - June 02, 2012 at 09:08 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album *Mom and Andrea, Hong Kong, 1970*



Andrea Grainger - June 02, 2012 at 08:50 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album *Jon and Mom on Lantau Island, 1971*



Andrea Grainger - June 02, 2012 at 08:47 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album *Mom's Travels*



Andrea Grainger - June 02, 2012 at 08:24 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album *Living in Asia*



Andrea Grainger - June 02, 2012 at 08:20 PM



“ *Mama I love you and miss you. Thank you for the adventures in Europe and Asia. The always entertaining dinners on the terrace at Rome, wandering around the Capri, exploring the northern hills of Thailand, tea at Harrods, going to Rock Cottages at Pattaya, feeding mynah birds at the breakfast table in Malaysia, and so many more wonderful memories. Tommy says don't forget to thank you for my life - so thank you for my life. Lots of love always, Andrea.*

Andrea Grainger - June 02, 2012 at 05:03 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



andrea grainger - June 02, 2012 at 02:43 PM

AG

Oops that was suppose to go into the photo section. Sorry Alexis.

andrea grainger - June 02, 2012 at 08:16 PM



JR

Thanks for doing this, Andrea. and also for caring for Aunt Elizabeth. I had hoped to see her this summer. Your Caldwell cousins would be grateful for any images you can provide.

Josephine Caldwell Ryan - June 02, 2012 at 11:11 PM



Thank you Josie. I found pics of your father when he was a baby, I beleive we got them via Grandmother Caldwell. Also, I have lovely pictures of Grandfather Caldwell as well as Alma, Ambra and Sidney as children and your great grandmother Osborn. If you send me your email I will be happy to send them to you.

Andrea Grainger - June 03, 2012 at 10:34 AM