

## THE LEGACY

Like a glowing ray of sunshine  
That defeats the very gloom,  
So, Barbara was this to all of us  
Whenever she walked in a room.  
With her radiant, shining, spirit  
Of kindness, of love, of care,  
And the generosity of her being,  
And her happy, golden hair.

The fierce glow of her intelligence,  
The smile she shared with us all,  
The way she kept her loved ones close,  
With an early morning call,  
The high standards she imposed on herself,  
The sparkle of her wit,  
The love she showed her husband,  
Were among her special gifts.

She had an alter-ego,  
Babette, she told me, was her name.  
And as Barbara was calm and practical,  
Babette was gloriously untamed!  
Whenever she got in trouble,  
Though it wasn't that often at all,  
Barbara would confide in me,  
It was always Babbette's fault.

A wife, a sister, an aunt,  
A bridge partner, a vet, a friend,  
A diver, a gardener, a mentor,  
Her legacy will not end.  
All these things were this woman;  
The sum so much finer than its parts,  
Because she was much more than this,

A resident of our hearts.  
One cannot extend one's days,  
We here, too, will pass,  
But the legacy that she leaves us all  
Is that life is ours to grasp.

The courage it took to challenge life  
And to make it rich, and full,  
And to live each day on her own terms—  
A golden girl's golden rule.  
Not everyone can understand  
The clarity and force of her will,  
But making her life worth living her life,  
Was more important than living it still.

There won't be another like her;  
She was really the only one.  
A luminous, sparkling sunbeam  
That shone brightly and was suddenly gone.

Barbara was our bright, warm sun,  
A luminous, lovely light,  
But at the end of every day,  
The sunrise leads to night.  
But though this darkness haunts us,  
And we feel this loss and mourn,  
As the morning light surely follows night,  
Her legacy will still go on.

The stars that shine the brightest  
Are the ones that touch us the most,  
For they illuminate the path for us,  
And forever shine a light in our souls.

Lorraine O'Donnell  
Bridge Partner and Friend  
February 3, 2024



## Branch Craige III, MD

November 21, 1950 – August 9, 2024

Branch Craige III was born November 21, 1950, in El Paso, Texas, to Branch Craige Jr., MD and Jean McCracken Craige and died peacefully at his home in El Paso on August 9, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Dr. Craige attended Austin High School in El Paso and graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences of Tulane University in New Orleans. He attended Tulane University Medical

School and graduated first in his class. He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado in Denver and was chosen as Chief Resident. He practiced Internal Medicine in El Paso for 35 years and served as the President of the El Paso County Medical Society.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Helen Lill Craige, son Branch Craige IV, PhD, of Christiansburg, VA (wife Siobhan Craige, PhD), daughter Halliday “Hallie” Craige McDonald, MD, of Austin, TX (husband John McDonald, MD), and grandchildren Keelin Craige and Greer, Weston, and Lyle McDonald. He is also survived by his sisters Betty Jean Craige, PhD, and Mary Jo Johnson. He was preceded in death by his daughter Dorothy McCutcheon Craige.

Branch was an avid outdoorsman and passionate about nature, travel, and a myriad of other things including camping, scuba diving, fly fishing, birdwatching, the Atlanta Braves, his beloved pets, and spending time on the South Fork River in Swan Valley, Idaho.

The family expresses their deepest gratitude to Dr. Muneer Assi and Dr. Jesus Gomez, as well as the professional staff at Envision Hospice. Services will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Clement, 810 N. Campbell St., El Paso, TX. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Animal Rescue League of El Paso or St. Clement’s School.



## Branch Craige III, MD

November 21, 1950 – August 9, 2024

**A beloved physician and true gentleman, Branch Craige, passed away Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. We send our deepest sympathy to his sweet, wife Helen and their family. His obituary can be viewed by clicking this icon. Rest in peace, dear Branch.**





## Barbara Dent

August 30, 1932 – June 26, 2024

We have lost another lovely lady from our bridge family. Barbara passed away on June 26, 2024.



## Jenine Hemphill

August 1, 1932 - March 6, 2024

*Lovely Jenine was a member of our club many years ago. Having lived a full life of 91 years, she now has her eternal home in heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Her obituary is posted on the In Memoriam page of our website.*



## **JENINE HEMPHILL Obituary**

JENINE WOODARD HEMPHILL Jenine Woodard Hemphill passed away on March 6, 2024, having lived a full life of 91 years. She now has her eternal home in heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jenine was born on August 1, 1932 in Alton, IL to William Thomas Woodard and Lucille Carey Woodard. After graduating from high school in Glasgow, Kentucky, Jenine moved to Washington, DC to work for the FBI (early 1950's) as a typist and stenographer. She held a highly classified security clearance during this Cold War period.

Little did she know that her future husband (Robert "Virg" Hemphill) was simultaneously flying jet fighters for the U.S. Air Force, helping safeguard Alaskan Skies from possible Russian aggression. The two met in El Paso in Jenine's later years and were married on June 3, 1980 in the Haiku Gardens, Honolulu, HI. Jenine and Virg enjoyed 44 years of marriage and resided in Honolulu, El Paso, Houston and Ruidoso, NM. During this time they shared countless memories traveling together in the South Pacific, Japan and Europe, combined with several river boat cruises. Her "favorite retreat" was their quiet mountain abode (of 40 years) in Ruidoso, NM. Jenine was an extensive reader of fiction, journalism, biographies, and poetry, and exhibited a sharp wit and quick humor until her final days. She was proudest of her achievements in the game of bridge (Life Master, American Contract Bridge League), in education (UTEP and OLLI life-long learning student), in real estate (El Paso Salesman of the Year, 1979), as a needle pointer (American Needlepoint Guild member), and as a trainer (member, Therapy Dogs International) to her yorkie, Kemba. She and Kemba visited a local El Paso elementary school to assist children in developing reading skills. Jenine was also a 3rd-generation member of First Christian Church. Jenine was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Carmeta Mills, and her first husband Edwin J. Burns. She is survived by her husband Robert "Virg" Hemphill; her son William Scott Burns and his wife Norma of El Paso, TX; her stepdaughter Amy Leland Hemphill of New York, NY; her niece Carey JenÃ© (Fred) Federspiel of Larchmont, NY; her grandchildren Lilia Janelle (Stephen) Hulford, Ryan Cody Burns, Kevin Scott Burns, and Kelsey JenÃ© (Marcelo) FranÃ©a; and great-grandson Quintin Elijah Hulford. Jenine was devoted to her family, and she supported and encouraged them in so many ways. Her loving spirit and warm humor will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Jenine Hemphill will be interred May 24th at 10:30 am, Fort Stanton Veterans Cemetery, Fort Stanton, NM, an area where the fresh mountain breezes always brought a smile to her pretty face.

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# Pamela Woods Vandertulip

February 4, 1947 – February 14, 2024



Pamela “Pam” Woods Vandertulip, 77 of El Paso, Texas, died after a courageous battle with liver cancer on February 14, 2024. Pam was a beloved wife, mother, stepmother, aunt, and friend, and was adored by anyone who had the honor of crossing her life’s path.

Pam was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma on February 4, 1947, to Oleta Faye Shiflett Woods and Kenneth Bloss Woods. She graduated from Cyril High School before studying “Boys, Booze, and Bridge” at Oklahoma State University. She eventually made her way to El Paso, Texas where she graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso.

She met the love of her life, Clay in 1980 at University Presbyterian Church while singing in the choir. In 1983, they were married in that same church. Clay’s daughter, Dianna “Charlie” Lester-Zeiner, gave Pam the new role of stepmother, which she cherished. In 1985, they welcomed another daughter, Katherine Woods Vandertulip, her life’s greatest joy.

She taught for 27 years as an elementary school reading teacher at Hacienda Heights, Pasodale, and Eastwood Knolls Elementary Schools in the Ysleta Independent School District. Her passion for childhood literacy led her to teach youth in our community how to read and cultivated their love of books. From 2000 to 2001, she served as the President of the International Reading Association’s El Paso Chapter.

She retired from teaching in 2006 and devoted herself fully to her antique business, Tulip’s Antiques and Consignments, where she curated a shop of fine furnishings, unique jewelry, and specialty gifts. She loved being surrounded by and wearing beautiful things. The store afforded her an outlet to add to her collections of china, costume jewelry, objects d’art, and friends.

Pam was a lover of life and having FUN! She could regularly be found watching UTEP Basketball (Go Lady Miners!) and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. A lover of games, Pam, played duplicate bridge at the El Paso Bridge Center, had a monthly bunco night with her Bunco Babes group, and kept her mind active with daily sessions of Settlers of Catan. Always with a needle in hand and eagerness to stay busy, Pam was a crafter. Her crafts included but were not limited to cross stitching, needlepoint, quilting, and rug hooking. A great cook and fabulous baker, her chocolate chip cookies, Italian cream cake, and fried okra were adored by friends and family. She frequently travelled with Clay to Las Vegas to play the slots and New York City to enjoy Broadway shows, museums and many lunches at the Cafeteria NYC or Jack’s Wife Frieda.

Pam was preceded in death by her parents, Oleta and Kenneth, and is survived by her husband, Clay Vandertulip, daughter, Katherine Vandertulip (Alex Balok), stepdaughter, Charlie Lester-Zeiner, (Gus Zeiner), grandchildren Zane and Trey Zeiner, many nieces and nephews, and cousins.

A special thanks for her medical care to Dr. Kaseb and Kristen Carter at MD Anderson, Dr Juan Herrada at Texas Oncology, and Dr. Abraham Gonzalez.

A memorial service will be held, Saturday, February 24, 2:00 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church, located at 244 Resler Drive. Friends and family gathering to celebrate her life should wear black (black suit preferred) and your favorite piece(s) of costume jewelry in memory of our stylish Pam. Pallbearers include German Avila-Pineda, Robert Taylor, Tony Duran, Eugene Bates, Tim Engelhard, Edgar Flores, and Rubin Ortiz. A family graveside service will be held on Monday, February 26 with interment to follow at Memory Gardens of the Valley.

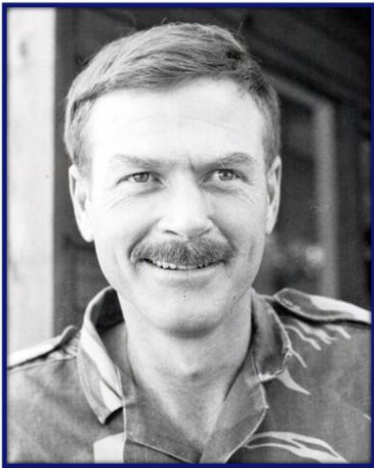
In lieu of flowers, honor Pam's favorite activity, cheering on the UTEP women's basketball team, by making a donation to the Miner Athletic Club (MAC) in memory of Pam Vandertulip. Send checks to: UTEP Athletics 500 W. University Ave, El Paso TX 79968 or online at: <https://pickaproject.utep.edu/project/28340/donate> .



## Pam Vandertulip

February 4, 1947 – February 14, 2024

**Our bridge family has lost another very special person, passed away Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. She fought an unbelievable battle that kept her with us for years. We will miss her joy for life, her beautiful spirit, her laugh, and her bridge club entrances where all eyes were drawn to her fabulous attire. She was a quiet but significant contributor to our club in her support of hospitality at tournaments as well as in her continued support of our games through her own struggles. She was one of a kind, and we will miss her. Our heartfelt condolences to her husband, Clay and her daughter, Katherine. The angels have a new and beautiful soul joining them.**



## Craig B. Adams

September 16, 1946 – October 19, 2024

Sadly, Trish Adam's husband passed away. Craig was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, who went to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 19, 2024. A proud Marine who served in Vietnam. Craig exemplified courage and dedication throughout his life. He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Adams, and their three children, Zachary, Jacob, and Rebecca Adams. Craig was also a cherished grandfather to nine grandchildren, who will carry forward his legacy of strength, compassion, and deep faith. Craig will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service will be on Monday, October 28 at 12:15 at Sunset Funeral Home. ([Click here to view online obituary](#))



## Eugene W. Myers

June 21, 1927 – January 4, 2024

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Gene was bowling when he passed away after 96 years of a very active, wonderful life. He played golf, bridge, attended church, and was even fixing things on their roof well into his nineties, much to Sandy's dismay.

A celebration of life for Gene was held Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Martin Funeral Home East on George Dieter Drive. Following the celebration of life was a committal service at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

To see his obituary, click this icon on our website.