Patricia Gumerson Gipson

Patricia Gumerson Gipson, 70, of Norman, Oklahoma, died Monday, January 21, 2008, in Norman, Oklahoma. Memorial Services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 24, 2008, at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman, Oklahoma. Services are under the direction of Havenbrook Funeral Home, Norman, Oklahoma.

Patti was born in Tonkawa, Oklahoma on January 30, 1937. She attended public schools in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and was the Valedictorian of her graduating class in 1955. She was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at the University of Oklahoma and was named the Outstanding Senior Woman by the Mortar Board in 1958. Patti graduated Phi Beta Kappa in English Literature and received her masters in 1959.

Patti married Fred Gipson in 1959. While living in Washington D.C., she wrote newsletters for the Chase Manhattan Bank and the East West Trade Council. Fred, Patti and the children moved to Seminole, Oklahoma, in 1974. Patti taught at the Seminole Junior College. Later she edited a newsletter and was the research director for the Energy Consumers and Producers Association. In this capacity she testified before the Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and became a recognized expert in energy regulations affecting the oil and gas industry. In 1982 she was named Citizen of the Year in Seminole.

In 1988, Fred and Patti moved to Norman where Patti became an active member of the Assistance League of Norman. Patti poured her heart and soul into the projects of the Assistance League. Her dedication and passion really shined through for Operation School Bell. Patti worked on every project with an unconditional loving smile and her zest for life shone through in everything she did. She gave inspiration and joy to all who met her.

Patti remained a scholar all of her life and was an avid reader. She has been an active member of the University of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and has served as treasurer for a number of years.

Patti was an accomplished storyteller and appeared in numerous classes in the Norman public schools. It was not uncommon for a child, in any number of venues, to call out to her as the storyteller lady.

Patti, like her mother before her, was born with a green thumb and her beautiful yard depicted her love for flowers and her expert eye for landscaping. She loved a game of tennis or a round of bridge with friends and especially spending time with her family. Above all, Patti was "Nana" to her grandchildren and loved taking all eight of them to movies, playing endless games and watching them in all their activities.

Patti was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Mabel Gumerson of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Patti is survived by her husband, Fred Gipson, her son, Fred R. Gipson and his wife Lisa, her daughter Lisa Barnard and her husband Greg, her daughter Elizabeth Base and her husband Dusty all of Norman, Oklahoma. She is also survived by her eight great nephews and nieces.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Assistance League of Norman, at 809 Wall St., Norman, OK 73069.

Send condolences online at http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm