



## Carolyn Ramsted

January 12, 1922 to March 24, 2013

Carolyn was born in Kentucky but moved to Chicago at age six. She graduated from Lawrence College in Appleton, WI with degrees in history and political science and went to work for IBM in Chicago. She joined the Navy in WWII and after the war went to Boston to study at the Harvard business school.

In Boston she met her husband who had served two separate tours in the Pacific and had graduated from San Jose State. They married in 1948 and he went to work for the National Park Service. They were stationed along Natchez Trace Parkway near the Tennessee Valley Authority. From there they went to the Pinnacles, CA and lived in housing which had no electricity at the time. Her husband's father had a ranch in San Jose with electricity, so they spent much time there working to upgrade and overcome wartime neglect.

The Ramstads had three sons. When the eldest was just six months old, Carolyn came down with polio and spent six months in the hospital. She recovered enough to home-school her eldest boy, manage rental units at the ranch, run the household and keep her husband's uniforms spotless. For intellectual stimulation, she joined the League of Women Voters and AAUW.

After 20 years in the Park Service, her husband worked for the U.S. Geological Service in Menlo Park. They also sold the ranch and bought a house in San Jose's Willow Glen where they lived for 39 years. They were able to travel with the boys on camping trips and to Hawaii. Later on they traveled as a couple to Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Greece, Egypt, Europe, Alaska, and the Caribbean. After her husband's death seven years ago, Carolyn has made two trips around South America. Her hobbies are gardening, sewing, bridge and investing.