

Cornelia "Connie" Christopulos Whitney

February 20, 1930 ~ April 23, 2024

Cornelia (“Connie”) Christopulos Whitney, 94, of Salt Lake City, passed away on April 23, 2024.

Mom was born in 1930 in Salt Lake City, to Greek immigrants, George Christopulos and Anna Kanalapulos. She and her siblings (Plato, Katina, Diamond, Cleopatra and Virginia) had a strong work ethic. She worked at the YWCA throughout high school and beyond, teaching swimming. She took up tennis there as well, and became a local champion by the age of 17. Family lore even tells the story of her winning a tennis match against Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly, the first woman to ever win the tennis Grand Slam in one year.

She married her high school sweetheart, Spence Whitney, and was introduced to more sports at which she excelled — water and snow skiing, in particular. With Spence, she found her match in someone who enjoyed laughing as much as she did; but her laugh was simply unmatched. Their lively marriage lasted until Spence’s death in 2014.

Together they had 4 children: Spencie, Bob (Bobbie), JD, and Diane (Bill). Challenged with raising 2 of their sons (Spencie 1952-2007, and JD 1954-2015) with cognitive disabilities, she rose to the occasion and created a beautifully rich and adventurous life for her family. Her superpowers of patience, kindness, generosity and forgiveness took her mothering skills to the next level, always with that trademark laugh.

Connie was an avid gardener, often found in her happy place: the backyard patio and hillside at her home in Olympus Cove. There wasn’t a weed on God’s green earth that was safe from being pulled by her.

She also loved attending Miracle Rock church (which she co-founded with her sister Pat), traveling (highlighted by an 80th birthday trip to visit the hometowns of her Greek parents), volunteering, and coaching in the Special Olympics. Connie’s faith was unquestionable, which she was willing to share with anyone and everyone!

Affectionately known as YiaYia to many, and wildly adored by her 6 grandchildren, Ryan, Nate (Megan), Annie (Brando), Parker (Dan), Alexander (Sierra) and Whitney (Lindsey), she was also blessed with 13 great-grandchildren, clearly too many to name.

Connie was guided out of this life by true angels: Stephanie and Anitha, and the loving staff of Spring Gardens in Holladay. We thank them all immensely.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Special Olympics. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on May 17 at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 1342 East 5th South, Salt Lake City. We will celebrate Connie’s life at the Christopulos family reunion later in September. OPA!