Ginette “Gigi” Griffiths (née Giraud)

Ginette “Gigi” Griffiths, born Ginette Raymonde Giraud in Paris, France, in April 1930, passed away peacefully November 20, 2024. She was the only child of André and Fernande Giraud. Gigi’s father worked as a mechanic, and after his passing, her mother Fernande took on multiple jobs to support the family. Growing up during the German occupation of Paris in World War II, Gigi experienced a modest upbringing shaped by resilience and determination.

In 1950, Gigi met David Albert Griffiths, a Canadian graduate student completing his doctorate in French literature at the Sorbonne. Their connection was immediate, and they soon married. They were blessed with two children: Paul, born while they were still in Paris, and Diana, born after they moved to Canada. The family eventually grew to include seven grandchildren – Alan, Andrea, Emilie, Clementine and Amanda – and four great grandchildren – Owen, Iris, Ezra and Iggy.

David’s academic career led the family first to Hamilton, where he taught at McMaster University, and later to Victoria, where he taught at Royal Royals and University of Victoria until his retirement in 1985. Gigi strongly contributed to her husband’s career by editing his thesis, reviewing article publication drafts, and engaging in many philosophical and sociological discussions with him. During their time in Victoria, Gigi pursued her own education, earning a Bachelor of Arts and Science and receiving the Jubilee Medal. She also shared her love of language as a freelance French instructor.

Gigi was passionate about people and cultures and was an avid reader with a special interest in history. Dynamic and open-minded, she and David enjoyed long walks together and, despite living modestly, indulged their love of travel. They

celebrated 63 wonderful years together before David’s passing from cancer in July 2013. They were exceedingly proud of all their children and grandchildren, respective spouses, and great grandchildren.

She remained close to her children throughout her life, staying in regular contact through phone calls spanning from Vancouver Island to France. With her health declining, Gigi moved to Mount St. Mary in July of this year.

Gigi will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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