

Phoebe Gobie Morse

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Age: 93 • Salisbury

"Together Again"

Phoebe Gobie Morse died on January 13, 2016, surrounded by her family. Phoebe was married to Harold Wilson Morse, known as Sam (1922-2006) for nearly 60 years. They raised 7 children through good times and bad with remarkable grace and integrity.

Phoebe was born on October 20, 1922 to Dr. William A. Gobie and Mary Josephine MacGillivray Gobie, in Groton, Massachusetts. In the midst of the Depression, at age 13, she and her 3 siblings were orphaned. "Nana" MacGillivray raised them. Phoebe attended Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists and become a dental hygienist. Shortly after the War, she met Sam on a blind date. They married in 1947, and had their brood between 1948 and 1959. Sam's education career took them from Massachusetts through Connecticut to Cincinnati, before landing them in Middlebury in 1969 and Salisbury in 1970.

When the kids-at-home headcount shrunk, Phoebe resumed her dental hygienist career, working with Dr. James Daly for years in his Middlebury offices. She was proud to have a productive occupation, and helped foster other Vermont women in their careers outside the home. She served as the President of the Vermont Business and Professional Women, President of the Vermont State Dental Hygienists' Association and The Salisbury Historical Society.

Phoebe was a devoted parent, who selflessly worked hard every day for the good of her family. When asked which child was her favorite, she would respond "Whoever needed me the most that day." She and Sam had a special and loving relationship. They laughed a lot, fought some, but never went to sleep mad at each other.

Once the kids were gone they started an antiques business, or hobby, that seemingly required attendance at every auction and yard sale from here to Enosburg. They enjoyed travelling, especially to England, reading, and talking together, but mostly they just wanted to be with one another. From 1992 through 2006 they enjoyed winters in Tucson, and summers in Brandon. After Sam died in 2006, Phoebe was lovingly cared for by her son, Jeffrey W. Morse, of Middlebury.

Phoebe was predeceased by her parents, husband, sisters Marceline Frink and Jane Churchville, and grandson Zachary Chase Morse. She is survived by her brother, William Gobie II of San Clemente, California, and her children: Phoebe Diane Morse, Washington D.C., Rebecca (W. Michael) Nawrath, Manchester, Vermont, Jeffrey W. Morse, Middlebury, Vermont, Andrew (Leigh Ann Hayward) Morse, Salt Lake City, Utah, Laura (Winthrop Packard) Morse, Middlebury, Vermont, Frederik (Caren Chybik) Morse, Orleans, Massachusetts, and Steven (Margaret Flanagan) Morse, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A Mass for Phoebe will be held on May 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's in Middlebury, followed by a reception. The family thanks Addison County Home Health and Hospice and the Addison County Volunteer Services of Middlebury, Vermont, for their tireless, compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, please take your family out to dinner and enjoy every minute, or donate to Project Independence, Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Visit burlingtonfreepress.com/obituaries to Express condolences and sign the guest book.

Funeral Home

Gifford Funeral Home & Cremation Services

22 Depot St Richmond, VT 05477

(802) 434-2231

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