



White blackbirds are flying backwards as the pearly gates of heaven welcome Winifred Mary (Byrne) Paul who passed peacefully in the only home she ever owned on May 26, 2017. Born on November 15, 1933, in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Winnie emigrated to America to work as an au pair in 1958. She went on to earn multiple nursing degrees and was one of the finest caregivers of her time, earning many accolades during more than 40 years of service at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, NY and St. John's Hospital in Elmhurst, NY.

Her "retirement" in 2003 lasted approximately 10 minutes as she immediately went to work providing caregiving services to the needy and was doing so until the day she departed.

Winnie loved classical music, poetry, and reading. She always had a book in hand whether for Bible study or book club discussion. She was at home in the kitchen and is renowned for her Irish soda bread, a staple at bake sales, St. Patrick's Day parties, or just because. Her Irish breakfasts were legendary. If you left her house hungry it was as she'd say "your own fault."

A devout Catholic and multi-year president of the Rosarian Society, Winnie was awarded the 2015 Catholic Woman of the Year in acknowledgement of her tireless commitment to a variety of Catholic social services including feeding the homeless and shut-in visitation. She had a front row seat in Washington D.C. to listen to His Holiness Pope Francis address Congress.

Whether China's Great Wall, Arizona's Grand Canyon, Waterfalls in Niagara, or Rio's Christ the Redeemer, Winnie traveled tens of thousands of miles to visit more than 20 countries across 5 continents. She feared nothing and repeatedly overcame life adversities from childhood poverty, prejudice, and orphanage, to rheumatic fever and paralysis.

Fiercely proud of her Irish roots, she imbued in her children, grandchildren, and all who would listen (and even a few who didn't) the gregarious and loving nature of her culture and the need to embrace one's own cultural background, sharing as much in a private dinner conversation with Senator John McCain at the Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix.

Blessed with the Irish gift of gab, Winnie enjoyed "talking the talk," but her body of work on earth leaves no doubt that she "walked the walk." Her laugh and Irish brogue were infectious.

Winnie was preceded in deaths that occurred only 3 months apart in 1986 by her mother Ellen Doyle and loving husband Ronald Patrick Paul, with whom she is reunited on the same weekend he passed 31 years ago. Her brother Joe Byrne (Mary) of Naas, Co. Kildare, whom she loved deeply and who was the source of strength and laughter also predeceased her.

Winnie is survived by her beloved brother Desse Byrne (Penny) of London, England. Though many thousands of miles apart Winnie remained in regular contact with her twin brothers and was fiercely protective of each. Winnie also is survived by her sons Patrick Joseph Paul (Amy) of Phoenix, Arizona and Ronald Patrick Paul of Flushing, and her grandsons, Liam Pdraig Paul and Aidan Seamus Paul of Phoenix. Liam and Aidan were blessed to know Mamo, to visit with her often in NY and Phoenix, and even in Ireland where they toured her hometown, school and church. Winnie is also survived by many nephews, nieces, cousins, surrogate sons and daughters, and a treasure trove of the very best friends kindness like hers fostered.

In her own words, the advice Winnie wanted others to remember is: *"Learn to be tolerant. Never knowingly do an injustice to anyone and always try to be fair."*

Visitation at Martin Gleason's, 149-20 Northern Blvd., Thurs June 1 from 6-9 p.m., Fri June 2, 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Mass Sat, June 3, 9:30 a.m. St. Andrew Avellino 35-60 158th Street. Burial to follow at Mt. St. Mary. Winnie enjoyed the Rosarian Society of St. Andrew.

"Ar dheis De go Raibh a anam" (May her soul be on God's right side)

