

# Virginia Lemner

November 23, 1960 - August 19, 2012





## *Virginia's Life Story*

Bubbly and affectionate, Virginia Lemner never wasted time waiting to get to know people - she just jumped right in! No matter who she was with, she could carry on a conversation like she had known them for years, and usually said good-bye with a hug or a kiss. Virginia brought joy and happiness to those around her; quite simply, she made the world a better place. Her infectious laugh, her kind heart, and her bottomless love for her friends and family will live on in the hearts and memories of all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Virginia was born on November 23, 1960, to loving parents Lawrence and Catherine (Gleason) Tuttle. The Tuttle family lived in Kankakee, Illinois, where Virginia grew up with two sisters and a brother: Judith, Patricia, and Daniel. Lawrence and Catherine both worked outside the home, Lawrence as a press operator at Roper Corporation and Catherine as a credit manager at Montgomery Ward.

Virginia was a bright child, outgoing and high-spirited. She got along well with others, and enjoyed playing games like Red Rover with the neighborhood children. She and her sister also liked making mud pies, and would

unblushingly feed the finished product to friends. Almost everyone has had the experience of breaking a jar or lamp or some similar item when their parents are out - for Virginia, it was the vitamin jar. A quick thinker, Virginia transferred the brightly colored vitamins to a clear bowl, leaving them on the kitchen table. Little did she know that her father would come home from work and eat the whole bowl, mistaking them for candies!





Young Virginia loved animals, especially dogs and horses. Her family had a series of horses over the years, including a Shetland pony that Virginia and her father taught to shake "hands." Riding can be a dangerous hobby, but Virginia was difficult to rattle. One day, she was riding a horse in Herscher, Illinois, when a passing driver honked to spook the horses. Not only did Virginia manage to stay on and get her foot untangled from the stirrup, her enthusiasm for riding remained unshaken! In addition to horse-riding, as a teenager Virginia raised dogs. Her first dog was Hooser, a St. Bernard, who she entered in the 4-H Fair. She would later go on to raise cocker spaniels and pointers.



After Virginia graduated from Bishop McNamara Catholic High School, she found work as a receptionist in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Her employer was the Associated Foot and Ankle Clinic, where her cheerful disposition and infectious laugh soon won the hearts of patients and co-workers alike.

As the years went by, Virginia became the proud mother of three children: Jessica, Aaron, and Craig. Virginia was a wonderful mother, affectionate and caring, who held strong family values. She was a devout Catholic, and she and her children belonged to St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Energetic and full of life, Virginia always kept busy in her free time. She still enjoyed horse-back riding, and at home created ceramic craftwork. She loved spending time with family and friends, and particularly enjoyed entertaining. She collected coupons, candles, and elephants, and every year redecorated a different room in her home. When she did take time to just relax, she could be spotted





watching a romantic comedy or a White Sox game, sipping on an iced tea from McDonald's.

In recent years, Virginia was delighted to become a grandmother. She was devoted to her grandchildren, and treasured the time spent with them. She loved the beach, and had fond memories of a Mother's Day trip with her children and grandchildren to Virginia Beach.

Strong, kind-hearted and cheerful, Virginia was a staunch Catholic, a loving mother and grandmother, and a friend to all. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her many friends and family members.

Virginia Lemner died at home on August 19, 2012, surrounded by her loved ones. Her family includes her daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Adam Fancher of Virginia; her sons, Aaron Lemner of Chicago, and Craig Lemner of Bradley; her grandchildren, Dakota and Cheyenne; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Judy and Tom Hess of Kankakee, and Patricia and Roy Williamson of Frankfort; her brother, Daniel Tuttle of Bradley; and her aunt, Mary Stam-Calvert of Bradley. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Catherine Tuttle; her nephew, Gregory Hess; and her niece-in-law, Mindy Williamson.

A private funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee. Memorials may be made to the family wishes. Please visit Virginia's personal memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com), where you can learn more about her life, share a favorite memory or photo, and sign the online guestbook.

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