

From the Thursday, November 22, 2012 edition of the Arizona Republic:

Gretchen Roberts was born April 29, 1926. She was raised during the great depression. Her mother however was the one responsible for the wonderful woman that young Gretchen would become. Gretchen was the only one of her siblings to graduate from high school. As a young adult she moved to Arizona with her Mom and brother. Soon she found herself in Tucson where she married Jim Mercer and had a son, John and a daughter, Deborah. Not long after that she became a single mother with the 2 small children. Within a couple years she met the love of her life, Bill Roberts. They married and after about 5 years she was blessed with her third child, Kimberly. The next 20 years passed quickly while experiencing the highs and lows of life. Bill's career flourished and Gretchen invested in her own business, a Baskin Robbins ice cream store. She worked long hours, but always brought home ice cream treats for Bill and Kim. Finally, she sold the store and Bill retired after serving as the US Marshal in Arizona. Now it was their time. They traveled around the US and visited Europe. They always came back for the holidays to be with family. Gretchen was always very generous at Christmas. She helped her family when she could many times over the years. Gretchen had 6 grandchildren, Krysta, Kara, Ben, Ryan, Marc and Stefan and 5 great grandchildren, Taylor, Tyler, Teagan, Ainsley and Colby. We will miss you mom. We will take the best of what you taught us. We will always honor your name. May the Lord be with you... until we meet again. Bill says, "I will always love you, Gretchen".