



## Virginia May Cramer Shields

October 4, 1913 - December 25, 2012

I am Virginia Shields, last of 5 Cramer sisters born in Martinsville, IN. A constant companion to my mother, I loved her bean soup and cornbread on washdays. Due to my name and red hair, everyone called me Ginger. After high school I was payroll clerk for social services and bought my first car, a Ford Coupe. Paul Shields was a uniformed Western Union messenger boy with a winning smile and outgoing personality. We were married in a quiet civil ceremony, big weddings being a luxury few could afford during the Depression. Moving to Jasper, IN, for Paul's job, our first son, Keith, was born in 1938. We were always on the move: Terre Haute, Muncie, Vincennes, Lafayette and North Manchester. In my view I went from small town girl (Judy Garland) to big city star (Ginger Rogers) almost overnight. After we settled in Fort Wayne, our daughter, Cheryl was born in 1945. After WWII ended, Paul was promoted from Manager and we moved permanently to Indianapolis. Ted, our last son, was born in 1948. Somehow I survived the weeks, and Paul was home for weekends. Life was good here. Holidays especially, with family. Those were the days Lucille Ball, Perry Como, Red Skelton and Carol Burnette. Eventually kids were off to college, and then Ted went to Vietnam. Soon grandkids joined the festivities, Shauna and Erin. In later years Paul and I enjoyed our travel bug and did winters in Florida along with trips out West. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in Brookview Rehab, where Paul was confined to bed. Now here myself, I enjoy my Animal Planet on cable TV and visits from the kids and daughter-in-law. Also enjoy my jovial interaction

with the staff. They know I am a grouch and say "no" a lot. But under it all there is a caring which I truly appreciate. I'm sure they know this. This was a good place to be. Visitation will be Wednesday, January 2, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St. Virginia is survived by her loving children, Ronald Keith Shields (Marty), Anita Cheryl (Bill) Shields-Devries and Ted Shields; grandson, Erin Shields; and five great-grandchildren.