

On occasion our branch is able to fundraise enough money to qualify for what is known as an **AAUW Named Gift Honoree**. Earlier this year, the board voted to nominate, posthumously, Virginia Prager-Elford for her dynamic personality and many contributions to our branch. She joined in 1996 and immediately jumped right in as membership VP co-chair, Great Discussions leader, Public Policy VP and one of the founders of our current COC Humanities Scholarship. Who can forget Tea & Bunco at Virginia's house? Did you win a prize for best hat? And those freshly homemade scones? Thank you Lynn. How can we forget her bridge playing? And was she excited after her PowerPoint presentation to her Sage Class. She was beaming when she relayed her experience with her fellow AAUW Great Discussions buddies. When the board was asked what comes to mind when they think of Virginia...

I'd describe her as a shining star of learning, clear thinking, sharing, philanthropy. She was a huge asset to our Branch.

Virginia believed strongly in education and was a proponent of continuing to be personally educated on the current issues.

I found her to be an amazing person. I first met her at mystery book club. I had not realized she was almost 90 years old. Virginia was vibrant, interesting and full of energy! I was amazed she still wore small heels.

I want to be her when I grow up. So gracious, so smart, so engaged.

Virginia Prager Elford is the person we all aspire to be.

She was determined when she taught elementary school in a time when she faced criticism for being a working mom.

She was community spirited when working with her home owners association as their president.

She was family oriented so much so that her daughter in law said only nice things about her. And her children and their children and extended family surrounded her with love.

She was generous in her drive to create a Humanities scholarship.

She was supportive to others with smiles and soothing words in most all her interactions.

She was tough and gutsy when she needed to be.

She was constantly seeking knowledge through formal and informal study. Her passion for this brought our branch the Great Discussions interest group.

Basically she was all that AAUW aspires to be and our branch is most grateful to have had her friendship, commitment and guidance. Thank you for sharing her with us.

All I can add is... she was and will always be my hero!

In summation, Virginia was a wonderful role model to all women showing them how to age gracefully with dignity, humor and intelligence.