

SPOTLIGHT

Rosemary Robinson

The grandmother of seven grandchildren, Rosemary Robinson, was raised as an only child in Atlanta, GA. The independence learned through being an only child would come in handy a number of times in her future. Rosemary is the mother of three daughters, all college graduates, and has been a businesswoman for most of her adult life; although, she did not start out thinking of herself as a businesswoman.



After graduating high school, she married her high school sweetheart, Jerry, who was destined to become a doctor. Well, Rosemary played a big part in helping him achieve his destiny as she worked to put him through medical school at Emory University and during his residency. She first worked in life insurance, but then took classes and trained to be an administrator in hospitals and physicians' offices. Jerry joined the US Navy to become a Navy flight surgeon and they lived in Pensacola and Jacksonville as their daughters were born in succession. After Jerry served on an extended ship assignment in Vietnam, he was contacted by a doctor in Sanford, FL, advising him of an opportunity to be the first practicing physician in Deltona, FL. And, he practiced there for 45 years!

In 1967, Deltona had a population of about 1200, mostly retirees. It wasn't an ideal place to raise a young family, but Rosemary made the best of it starting a Girl Scouts chapter and becoming the President of the Deltona Women's Club, all the while working in her husband's medical office. She was also the Medical Society President, a pink lady in a Sanford hospital, a gray lady at an Enterprise elementary school, plus she took her girls to all kinds of lessons and activities. She was on the road a lot in those years! But, alas, after 23 years, and with her children all just about out of the house, her marriage ended. Thereafter, Rosemary relied on that independent streak and worked in real estate, insurance, and as a furniture representative.

After ten years of doing her own thing, she reunited with Jerry and they remarried and she moved in with him in his Heathrow home. Meanwhile, Jerry had continued his family practice in Deltona and Rosemary got back involved supporting it. They were married another 18 years until Jerry passed away. Thereafter, Rosemary inherited his practice and independently managed it until she sold the property to Bethune-Cookman University to become an extension facility. And then, she finally officially retired!

Although she joined HWC in 1990, she became more active after she had raised her step-children. She has served on most every committee through the years, currently on Ways and Means and Charitable Endeavors. She particularly enjoys supporting the Boys and Girls Club birthday celebrations. A devout Christian, she teaches bible study and sings in the choir at her Presbyterian church. And, of course, time with her grandchildren these days is precious.

Well, you can never slow a good girl down, as Rosemary has proven after being introduced to internet dating through her granddaughter where she met Terry two years ago. They have laughs and good times and evidently he can "fix" anything! So, Rosemary has indeed had a very interesting life and "keeps on going" like the Energizer bunny. She has given me the courage to try internet dating...again. May the rest of my life be as blessed as hers has been and continues to be!

BY LEE GRANGER