Remembering Geri Hahn Allison by Thaine H. Allison, Jr.

On September 4, 2024, Geri (Geraldine) Hahn Allison suddenly passed away in her home in Sacramento, California. I first met Geri on Labor Day weekend of 1958 as she was moving into North Hall, the women's dorm at Chico State College (now Cal State University Chico). She was a freshman majoring in Elementary Education; later she added a second major in Speech Pathology. She graduated Cum Laude. We married in August 1961 and completed our senior year together.



The photo on the right was taken in September 1963 when she and I, as Peace Corps Volunteers, witnessed the creation of the new nation of Malaysia—the union of Malaya and the two states of Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo. We arrived in 1962 to serve in the British colony of North Borneo, which became the state of Sabah in Malaysia the following year. Eventually, over a quarter million Americans have served in the Peace Corps, but Geri was one of the pioneers as volunteer number 1,479.

The picture on the left of Geri, wearing the same costume 60 years later, was taken at our grandson's wedding in June 2023. These are the first and last pictures I have of her. She lived a life of service as a mother of two sons, an elementary school teacher, and a Speech Pathologist, specializing in Stuttering Therapy. Long after her formal retirement, she continued to serve as a volunteer speech pathologist working with students until the very end.

We were married for almost 30 of those years. She is missed by those of us who knew her, loved her, and benefited from her commitment to making a better world, whether 12,000 miles away in the Borneo jungle or in her neighborhood. We celebrate her life and mourn her all too soon passing.