

## Thérèse Ballet Lynn (1932-2017)



Member of the Chapman faculty in the late 1980s and early to mid-1990s, Thérèse passed away on Tuesday, May 30 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's and other health problems.

Born and raised in France, Thérèse met her husband Tommy while he was stationed there with the U.S. armed forces. Returning to settle in the United States with Tommy, she raised four children while earning her PhD in modern languages. In addition to her native French, she spoke and wrote in English, German, and Spanish.

She was known by her students as a tough professor, with high standards but also with a twinkle in her eye. While serving on the usual array of university committees and for a while as Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, she also was instrumental in launching Chapman's Women's Studies Program. Her research focused on Christine de Pizan, a remarkable woman for her time, the late Middle Ages.

Thérèse was also very active in the Orange County chapter of the United Nations Association, serving as President for several years and volunteering as her time permitted, in the UNICEF gift shop on Grand Avenue, just a few blocks south of the Orange circle. In 1995 she attended the first United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing, arriving by train from Helsinki. Her story of that trip, *Peace Train: Helsinki to Beijing*, is still available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

At this writing, plans for a memorial service are not known. If we learn of them, another notice will be sent out to our members (Retired & Emeritus Faculty Association, Chapman University).

Obituary, LA Times

Thérèse B. Lynn

July 27, 1932 - May 30, 2017

Dr. Thérèse B. Lynn, died peacefully on May 30, 2017. She was 84 years old. She was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Henry Thomas Lynn. She is survived by her brother Freddy Ballet, her four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dr. Lynn grew up in France and earned degrees in French and English from the University of Poitiers. She married and moved to the U.S. where she earned a master's degree in French from the University of Tennessee, and a doctorate in Medieval French Literature from the University of Illinois.

She taught at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville College, and later when she relocated with her family to California, at the University of California at Irvine and Chapman University.

Dr. Lynn was involved in many organizations including the Alliance Française, the United Nations Association, Women For: Orange County, the League of Women Voters, and Witness for Peace. She was a lifelong promoter of human rights and a determined advocate for women's rights as well. She was a kind, loving mother and grandmother and will be dearly missed by her family.