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Virginia Heinlein's Memorial Service held April 26th at San Diego Harbor



Mrs. Roberta Pournelle remembers her dear friend Ginny with a few words shortly before Virginia Heinlein's ashes join Robert's in the Pacific Ocean at the entrance of San Diego Harbor. At left is author Jerry Pournelle, and on the right is their niece.

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San Diego, CA, April 26, 2003 --

At about 4:30 p.m., a small cabin cruiser, commanded by a retired Navy Lieutenant Commander, left Shelter Pointe Marina in San Diego harbor. It carried Virginia Heinlein's ashes, some old dear friends, some newer ones, and a cargo, soon to be consumed, of the makings of Ginny's favorite

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cocktail, The French 75, and trays of hors d'oeuvres compliments of the US Navy, which regretted that, due to hostilities, it could not provide accommodations for visitors on any Naval vessel that could be made available for the ceremony.

About ninety minutes later, after we had made initial toasts in memory, the vessel rounded the breakwater, backed engines to hold stationary as we gathered in the bows, each to express a personal goodbye to Ginny. Then Dr. Amy Baxter knelt at the front of the boat, opened and emptied the container of ashes of Virginia Heinlein into the same seas of the Pacific that received the ashes of Robert Heinlein fifteen years earlier. We then floated a wreath of orchids, Ginny's favorite flower, over the seas that had received her ashes; and we turned away knowing we all had helped return her to her beloved Robert.

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