

# Miriam Sprince

December 14, 1925 - February 21, 2025

Miriam Ruth Sprince, a registered nurse whose career spanned more than fifty years, died peacefully in her sleep on February 21, 2025 in Boynton Beach, Florida, after suffering a stroke while under hospice care at her assisted living residence. She was formerly of Phoenix, Arizona and Boston, Massachusetts. She was 99 years old, ten months short of her 100th birthday.

Miriam had carefully preserved many papers and items documenting her life and family history: her high school and nursing diplomas; her high school yearbook; papers belonging to her husband, including his World War II deployment orders; the invitation and hotel receipt from their wedding; a scrapbook of cards celebrating the birth of her first child; family letters and many hundreds of photos. She kept these items for decades, a reflection of how deeply she valued the milestones of her life. Her papers tell the story of her life and of an earlier generation.

Miriam was born on December 14, 1925 in Brooklyn, New York to William and Gladys Weissman. The eldest of three children, Miriam was a role model to her younger brother, Morty, and to the youngest child, her sister Barbara. Miriam and Barbara would become lifelong friends.

Miriam took an early interest in art. In high school, she aspired to be a fashion designer. Among her personal belongings, Miriam still had her high school sketchbook. She also saved her French notebook, a subject she loved and in which she excelled. She graduated from Walton High School in the Bronx, New York, in June, 1943.

Miriam never gave up her interest in art. Throughout her lifetime, she studied and practiced drawing, oil painting, and calligraphy, as well as crochet and needlepoint.

Not long after her high school graduation, during the height of World War II, Miriam decided on a career in nursing. She enrolled in the U.S. Nurse Cadet program at Bellevue School of Nursing, New York University. The war ended before she graduated, so she did not have a chance to serve. Miriam went on to graduate from the program in March, 1948 and was licensed to practice as a “Registered Professional Nurse” in the State of New York, in May, 1948, embarking on a nursing career that spanned over fifty years.

Miriam met her future husband, Donald Sprince, of Lewiston, Maine, at Banner Lodge, in Connecticut, in the summer of 1949. Banner Lodge was known at the time as a resort that catered to a Jewish clientele. Donald would later describe it as “summer camp for adults”. Soon after, Miriam and Donald were married in New York, on February 2, 1950.

They first lived for a short time in Springfield, Massachusetts, then in Lewiston, Maine, for several years, near Donald’s family. Finally settling in Boston, together they raised two sons.

Even with a family, Miriam continued her career as a nurse. After early experience as a surgical nurse, she went on to serve as an obstetrics nursing supervisor at Beth Israel Hospital for eight years, later as head nurse at Allergy Associates, both in Boston, for ten years.

Miriam loved to travel. She and her sister Barbara went on winter trips to Miami Beach and Puerto Rico, and with their husbands Donald and Frank, to Bermuda and the Bahamas. She also visited England and France with friends from work. While in France, she was able to get by with her high school French skills.

In 1981, Miriam and Donald moved to California. There, Miriam worked as an obstetrics nurse at the University of California Hospital in Irvine for six years. She studied some Spanish and used it to communicate with her Spanish-speaking patients.

From 1987 to 1989, they lived in Lauderhill, Florida, to be near Donald’s brother, Arnold, and his wife, Leila. Miriam, retired from full-time employment, worked part time at both Plantation General Hospital and Coral Springs Medical Center.

Miriam and Don ultimately relocated to Phoenix, Arizona in 1989. In addition to travel throughout the Southwest, and attending dance socials (they were lifetime dancers), Miriam worked part time at Paradise Valley Hospital into her 70s, caring for new mothers and their babies, and training new nurses. She was featured in a training video produced by the hospital.

Forced to retire due to hearing loss, she volunteered as a surgical patient advocate at the hospital. Miriam and Don lived in Phoenix for twenty-six years, until Donald’s death in 2015 at the age of 97. They had remained together for sixty-five years.

Miriam moved one more time, to Boynton Beach, Florida, in 2016, living for a time with her sister, Barbara, and then at an assisted living facility, Barrington Terrace, after health issues limited her mobility and independence.

Throughout her life, Miriam's personality, hard work, and intelligence left an impression on everyone who knew her. Highly respected in her field, Miriam was praised by her colleagues and employers, as well as friends and family.

Miriam took great pride in her family, which remained central to her throughout her long life. She took particular pride and interest in the activities and accomplishments of her grandchildren and always made them feel loved and important.

Among her personal papers documenting her life were letters of professional reference that she had set aside for her grandchildren. She wanted them to know about her career, and to learn by her example:

*"Your vivacious personality and enthusiasm for nursing is an inspiration for us all who have had the pleasure of associating with you."*

- Marjorie Bachmann, Associate Director, Beth Israel Hospital

*"Miriam will be missed by all who came in contact with her. I recommend her highly, with no reservations."*

- Stanley Sakowitz, MD, Allergy Associates

*"She has a maturity of medical judgment, which does not come from experience alone."*

- Myron Morris, MD, Allergy Associates

*"A very capable, unique, warm, kind, compassionate, highly motivated, and decent human being."*

- Bernard Berman, MD, Allergy Associates

A service of remembrance was held March 2025 with friends and family at Barrington Terrace in Boynton Beach, Florida. A funeral service was held March 23, 2026 at the National VA Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona, where Miriam's remains were laid to rest alongside those of her beloved husband, Donald.

Miriam is survived by her son Richard, daughter-in-law Jannet Uceda, and grandchildren Alejandro and Sarah. She will be remembered with love by all who knew her.



Miriam Sprince, nurse graduate, 1948



Miriam Sprince, 1987



Miriam Sprince, 2021