



## Violette Verdy

December 1, 1933 - February 8, 2016

Violette Verdy, 82, passed away on February 8, 2016, in Bloomington, Indiana.

Born Nelly Guillerm in Pont-l'Abbé, France, Violette Verdy began her training in ballet in Paris in 1942 and adopted the stage name by which she was known for the rest of her life at the age of 15. Known as one of the leading ballerinas of the 20th century, she was a principal dancer for New York City Ballet for 20 years and served as artistic director of Paris Opéra Ballet and Boston Ballet. In 1976, she was twice invited to dance at the White House by the President and First Lady, Gerald & Betty Ford.

Violette joined the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music in 1996 where she became a Distinguished Professor and the inaugural recipient of the Kathy Ziliak Anderson Chair in Ballet. For the past several years, she also served as principal guest teacher to the School of American Ballet, New York City, and as artistic advisor to the Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris. Verdy holds honorary doctorates from Goucher College, Boston Conservatory, and Skidmore College. The French Government bestowed Verdy with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1971 and Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur in 2009.

The Family would like to thank all of the friends and medical staff who helped

Violette with her care during her brief illness. There will be a gathering to celebrate her life and memory on Friday, February 12, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. (with brief remarks at 5:30) at the Allen Funeral Home at 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN 47401.

Thoughts and remembrances of Violette may be left at the blog created in her honor by the Jacobs School of Music: <http://blogs.music.indiana.edu/violette-verdy/remembrances/>. Donations in Violette's memory may be made to support children's education in India (Organization for Atma Vidya Educational Foundation) or to your local animal shelter.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **12**. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>