



# Estelle Iris Fowlkes Mountcastle

June 30, 1927 - August 21, 2019

Estelle Iris Fowlkes Mountcastle of Providence Forge, VA, passed away in her home surrounded by family and wildlife on August 21, 2019. She was 92.

Born at home on June 30, 1927 in South Richmond, Estelle flourished into a beautiful young woman, wife, mother, and community member. She was equally a woman of nature who hunted, fished, and trekked in the woods with her beloved husband, George.

George and Estelle met in grade school, where a more serious Estelle at first rebuffed George's mischievous play. As all who knew them can attest, he won her heart, and theirs was an enduring love story.

She graduated from Smithdale-Massey Business College, and in the mid-1940s Estelle became the executive secretary to the Commander at Cheatham Annex Naval Base in Yorktown. She would later go on to work at the C & O Railroad.

Estelle was a member of a strong community. Among many other things, she was there for her children's school activities and was an active member of the Providence Forge Presbyterian Church and the historic Olivet Church, keeping its history books. For 20 years, her husband was chief of the volunteer fire department, and from their home, she was the night dispatcher.

As a child of the Depression era, making good use of resources and saving were lifelong traits. In a sense, she was also a keeper of stories, with her meticulous research and recording of family genealogy. Her bounds of photographs date back to the 1800s with names and dates faithfully noted on the backs of each one. She has boxes of jewelry and artifacts from her childhood to the present with notes tucked in them telling where they came from.

Whatever Estelle set out to do was done with great care, from her professional work, to sewing beautiful dresses for her daughter, crocheting baby blankets for her grandchildren, to cooking and baking. She made jams that graced the Christmas breakfast table every year and canned from the garden. It's hard to say how many pounds of walnuts and crabs she picked for cakes and cookies and crab casseroles!

Her family was fortunate to have a house at Gywnn's Island on the Chesapeake Bay for fishing, swimming, and wake boarding, with boards handmade by George. They also had a mountain cabin in Bedford, VA, where many adventures were had and memories made.

When her children were grown, Estelle became an avid photographer. After her husband passed away in 1994, she traveled with friends worldwide. Throughout the years until her passing, deer, turkeys, and birds delighted her in the fields just beyond her windows. Estelle was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Lillian Fowlkes, her husband, George Warren Mountcastle, and her brother, Irvine Fowlkes.

She is survived by her three children, G. Warren Mountcastle, Jr. (Susan Malechek), David Mountcastle (Wanda), and Nancy Harris (Dick); five grandchildren, Carol Caldwell Bechtold (Roy), Jon Caldwell (Alicia), Jessica Mountcastle Strain (Christopher), and Michael Mountcastle, Chris Finley (Rhonda); seven great grandchildren, Jolie Kamm, Kathleen Hankins, Brayden and Sadie Caldwell, Wyatt and Sophia Strain, and Harrison Bechtold. Estelle is also survived by Edna Dean Fowlkes, her sister-in-law, whom she regarded as a sister.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 24 at Providence Forge Presbyterian Church with burial following at Olivet Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends from 5-8 pm on Friday, August 23 at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge VA.

# Cemetery Details

## Olivet Presbyterian Church Cemetery

5700 Olivet Church Road  
Providence Forge, VA 23140

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140

## Service

AUG **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Providence Forge Presbyterian Church  
9310 Townsend Rd  
Providence Forge, VA 23140

# Tribute Wall

LI

“ I will surely miss Estelle at our Olivet homecoming days every May. She was a wonderful soft spoken lady to talk to and know. She was very talented and had a wide range of interests. My prayers for her family at this time. Linda Matthews

Linda - September 15, 2019 at 08:38 AM

AN

“ Warren,  
I am so sorry to hear of you're families loss, what a beautiful lady. Sending prayers for you and your family

Angela Hines



Angela - August 26, 2019 at 07:45 PM

MH

“ We first met Estelle in the yard of the old Olivet Church church, and she was happy to share her wealth of knowledge about the history of the church and some family members buried there. Often, as I was walking our dog, I'd stop to talk with Estelle on her church visit. I've missed our short conversations for several years now as she was no longer able to manage those church visits. Our condolences to her family and know Estelle will be missed by all. Maggie and Wade Harrell

Maggie and Wade Harrell - August 23, 2019 at 12:43 PM

CD

“ Warren, David and Nancy,

I was saddened to read of your mother's passing in the paper today. She was such a wonderful person and I know you will miss her dearly. My prayers and thoughts are with you in this difficult time.

Connie (Marston) Denby

Connie Marston Denby - August 22, 2019 at 11:54 AM

JP

“ So sorry to hear about your Mother. We have such wonderful memories of her and your Dad during our York Academy days. Both of them were very special people. Cherish your wonderful memories. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Judy&Glenn Palmer - August 21, 2019 at 08:17 PM