



Mary Vallie West

October 14, 1929 - August 19, 2017

On Saturday, August 19, 2017, Mary Vallie West passed away at the age of 87.

Mary Vallie was born to Galen and Marguerite Poe Elliott on October 14, 1929, in Durham, N.C. She attended Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA, where she met Norman E. West, Jr. They were married on June 5, 1949 in Darlington, SC. Mary Vallie and Norman lived in Hagerstown, MD, Lexington, KY, and Mansfield, PA before settling in West Point, VA until Norman's retirement when they moved to New Kent County in VA.

While Norman served as the minister of West Point Christian Church, Mary Vallie was devoted to the musical programs at the church. She directed the choir and played the piano. After the current West Point Christian Church was built and its lovely pipe organ installed, Mary Vallie took organ lessons in Richmond. The organ became one of her passions and she loved playing any Sunday. She was always happy to lend her talents if another organist was absent, and played for many local congregations.

Mary Vallie worked in West Point as a legal secretary for many years and as a secretary for New Kent County where she eventually retired.

As a gifted crafter, Mary Vallie could always be found with a project (or five) in the works. She was a member of the Virginia Guild of Needlewomen, and served as president for a time. Her needlepoint, cross-stitch, and crewell works can be found as pillows, clothing, and in frames. She was a skilled seamstress and her quilting is well known by friends and family. A small quilt

always adorned her apartment door at Covenant Woods, updated as the seasons change. She was a member of the Stingray Stitchers in Deltaville and an ongoing supporter of Project Linus, which donates blankets to children in the hospital. Her sewing was not restricted to quilts, she was also known to create clothing and teddy bears. Her teddy bears were a great passion. She became enamored with bears she found at craft shows and decided to try her hand at making them. After using a store bought pattern and feeling dissatisfied with the resulting bear (who was no less loved by the way), she designed her own pattern. She made and sold bears (including outfits and accessories) for some years, selling them under her Merry Valley Bears label. Her products ranged from fluffy bears and bunnies designed as children's toys to grand mohair bears intended for serious collectors. She was a member of Greater Richmond Den of Good Bears of the World, which is an organization dedicated to providing comfort, in the form of teddy bears, wherever one is needed. As you can already imagine, Mary Vallie was also a knitter. It was a hobby for when she wasn't working on her other hobbies. She could knit without watching her needles so it didn't stop her from carrying on a conversation, watching a movie, or attending the symphony. Her handmade socks are practically famous throughout the tidewater region and a gifted pair was a treasure.

Mary Vallie was a lifelong animal lover. Over the years, she and Norman owned Bassett hounds, English bulldogs, West Highland White Terriers, Manx cats, a Cairn terrier, a Pekingese, a French bulldog, and two Scottish fold cats. She was an avid golfer and never missed an opportunity to try a new course, no matter how she must rearrange her schedule. She was very competitive on the links and very social on the 19th hole.

Mary Vallie loved the home in New Kent that she and Norman built. She spent many years designing and planting an English garden around the tranquil Koi pond that they enjoyed together.

In 2012, Mary Vallie moved to Covenant Woods in Mechanicsville and enlarged her circle of friends that became like family. She quickly connected

with many other residents there, through social gatherings, craft fairs, and her cats, who occasionally saw themselves out of her apartment to investigate the building. While in Mechanicsville, Mary Vallie began attending Ashland Christian Church. She modified her membership to be joint between West Point Christian Church, where she spent so many years, and Ashland Christian Church, where she was again becoming well known and had wormed her way to become substitute organist.

Mary Vallie is survived by a daughter, Terry Hey (Rick) of Staunton, VA; a son, Timothy West of Barhamsville, VA; granddaughters, Jessica Musante (Victor) of King William VA, and Meagan Bladen (Joshua) of Groton, CT; and a great-grandson, Damien Musante of King William, VA. She also leaves behind two sisters, Peggy Yates (L.F.) of Durham, NC, and Gaye Taylor of Oak Island, NC; and many loved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11AM on Saturday September 30 at Ashland Christian Church, 301 S James St, Ashland, VA 23005, with a reception to follow at the church. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Friday September 29, from 5pm-7pm at Vincent Funeral Home, 417 11th St, West Point, VA 23181.

Memorial contributions may be made to West Point Christian Church, PO BOX 800, West Point, VA 23181, Ashland Christian Church, 301 S. James St., Ashland, VA 23005, West Point Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box X, West Point, VA 23181, a local animal shelter, or Covenant Woods, 7090 Covenant Woods Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, West Point Chapel
417 11th St
West Point, VA 23181
(804) 843-2550

Tribute Wall



“ Terry and Tim, I will always miss that bright smile and her forever cheerful personality. Aunt Mary Vallie's love of golf made me the golfer that I am today. She and Uncle Norman were always so much fun to visit and talk with through the years. I will always cherish those memories of them and find peace in knowing that they are together again.

Pat Taylor and family

Pat Taylor - September 29, 2017 at 06:04 PM

BP

“ Reading Mary Vallis's Obituary brought to my mind many memories of our grandmother, for whom she was named. Both were very creative and productive. I wish I could have lived closer to my cousins. I know Mary Valie was a beloved wife, mom, artist, musician, friend. I mourn her passing and offer my sincere condolences to all who knew and loved her.
Bob Poe, son of Harold Poe.

Bob Poe - September 09, 2017 at 10:45 AM

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Meagan Hey Bladen - August 23, 2017 at 10:32 AM

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Meagan Hey Bladen - August 23, 2017 at 10:32 AM

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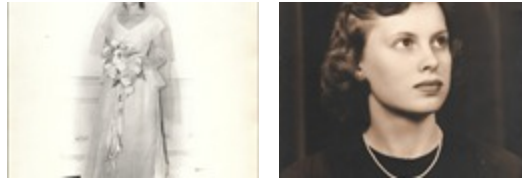
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Meagan Hey Bladen - August 23, 2017 at 10:30 AM

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Meagan Hey Bladen - August 23, 2017 at 10:30 AM

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Meagan Bladen - August 23, 2017 at 10:28 AM

JA

“ Many Happy Memories of stopping by Turkey Foot and having a casual meal and visit with Mary Vallie and Norman. Also, sharing times of Music with Mary Vallie.
They were both truly, my Dear Friends !
Love, Jim Andrews



Jim Andrews - August 22, 2017 at 09:58 AM

KW

“ Terry and Tim - I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. She was such an important person in my life growing up with you in the West Point Christian Church. My memories of her trying to lead us as a bunch of kids singing and Christmas pageants, still to this day makes me giggle. She worked so hard to get us up to a level of presentation!! I loved her and your Dad and will cherish my memories of both of them. Hold tight in your faith and good memories to get through this time.

Karen Wolford Wright - August 22, 2017 at 08:20 AM

LS

“ *Linda South lit a candle in memory of Mary Vallie West*



Linda South - August 21, 2017 at 03:45 PM

LW

“ *My world is diminished to know that Mary Vallie is not walking on it anymore. I know that Norman is ecstatic to have her "home" and that makes me smile. I will miss my dear friend and playmate...we had such fun and laughs. i will miss her smile, wisdom, knowledge and sense of fun and mischief. My heart goes out to you Terri and Tim. I know you are in shock as are we all. She was a dear friend to so many and missed already.*

Lynda and Rich Weaver - August 21, 2017 at 07:17 AM

MH

“ *So sorry for your loss, Your mother and father both meant the world to me and my family. Your mother's smile always brightened my day. Her music was beautiful. May you find comfort in God's love and the memories you hold dear in your hearts. Thoughts and prayers to comfort you in the days ahead. Love, Melinda Mitchell Hawkes*

Melinda Mitchell Hawkes - August 21, 2017 at 06:28 AM

BF

“ Terry, Tim, I loved your mother with all my heart and soul. I will miss her and her wonderful attitude towards life. She was lots of fun also, at the Harlow's Pig Roast we would go to each year. Lots of love to you both at this time. The Angels have a beautiful voice and organist.to share the Glory!!

Becky Fauber - August 20, 2017 at 03:06 PM

MT

Terry: Sorry to hear this. I have many memories of your Mom (and Dad). My best to you always: m

Maris Talley - August 21, 2017 at 12:30 PM

BS

Terry and Tim: I Shall greatly miss your wonderful mother. She was instrumental in my growing up in the Christian Church especially singing in the choir. I always enjoyed seeing her smile and her great sense of humor. I feel extremely blessed to have know her. Peace and love, Brenda Fauber Stevens

Brenda Fauber Stevens - August 22, 2017 at 10:43 AM

RH

Terry and Tim I enjoyed playing golf with your mom.Will miss her.Ruby Harwood

Ruby Harwood - August 23, 2017 at 07:18 AM

CS

I knew Mary Vallie when I worked in the school board office and she worked in the county administrator's office. She was a wonderful person, and she will be missed. My thought and prayers are with your family at this time. Carolyn Smith

Carolyn Smith - August 23, 2017 at 09:29 PM

BW

*Terry and Tim,
I have many fond memories of time with your family in West Point,
Spartanburg, Sandbridge, Myrtle, and family reunions. Aunt Mary Vallie
was such a kind and genuine person.*

*I am thankful to have had the chance to visit with Mary Vallie this past
June. I've been thinking of you all since your call Saturday.
Wishing you comfort and peace at this difficult time.*

*Love,
Brian West*

Brian West - August 23, 2017 at 10:02 PM

JP

*Dear Terry,, Peggy Yeats just shared with me about her dear sister's
death. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I remember
getting to know Mary Vallie through the Poe Family Reunions in NC
and visiting her and Norm in West Point. Her precious obituary brought
back so many memories. She always brought such joy into every
moment with her sparkle and warmth.. I am certain my Bill gave her a
warm ":kissing cousin" greeting in God's eternal reunion.. Shalom, June
Poe .*

June P. Poe - September 10, 2017 at 09:18 PM