



## Virginia Mary Bernoskie Ryczak

September 30, 1926 - April 30, 2020

Virginia Mary Bernoskie Ryczak, age 93, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at “The Virginian” senior living facility in Fairfax, Virginia, where she had been in residence for 6 years. She was born in West Point, Virginia, to Robert and Annie Naggy Bernoskie. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Stanley J. Ryczak, and her brother, Edward R. Bernoskie.

She is survived by three devoted daughters, Maryann R. Casterline (Bill) of Chantilly, VA, Maureen R. Radford (Mike) of Wilson, NC, and Martha R. Whiteley (Eric) of Bowie, MD, and by two devoted sons, Robert S. Ryczak (Sonia) of Bel Air, MD. and Paul S. Ryczak of Fairfax, VA. “Nanny” had ten loving grandchildren: John (Megan), Kathryn (fiancé Robert) and David (Sarah) Casterline, Christopher (Casey) and Brian (Samantha) Radford, Michael, Sarah and Matthew Whiteley and Rachel Whiteley Rosenberger (Adam), and Julia Ryczak, and four great-grandchildren: Jack & Claire Casterline, and Kennedy & Madison Radford.

She completed her elementary education at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School in Port Richmond. Taught by the Sisters of Mercy, Virginia carried her love and respect for nuns from that order into her adult life. Virginia graduated from West Point High School in 1943, and started her first job at Thrift Insurance on Main Street. Blonde, blue-eyed “Ginny” bewitched Stanley when he came from Pennsylvania one summer to visit his Aunt Julia Tokarz and to work in the local pickle factory. They were married on July 13, 1946.

She enjoyed a good round of golf in her early years, swimming and riding a bicycle well into her 60s. During World War II, she joined other teenage girls from West Point in chartered bus rides to a Navy base on the York River to socialize and dance with the young men in uniform.

Virginia was a very active and devoted member of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She held a special life-long devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and rarely did she miss morning Mass or praying the rosary. She served for many years as church organist, member of the choir and Our Lady's Sodality, and as a sacristan and Chair Lady for 7 years of the Women's Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. Virginia was a dedicated volunteer at Riverside Convalescent Center in West Point, earning the 20 Year Pin. She was an avid flower gardener, a fabulous baker (her pound cake was well known and often requested), a skilled seamstress and talented quilter, having made a quilt for each of her five children and ten grandchildren. Her bright smile lit up the room and her sweet nature made everyone feel welcome. She and Stanley thoroughly enjoyed their 17 vacation cruises to ports in Alaska, the Panama Canal and the Caribbean, and she travelled with Stanley on a few of his business trips to Europe for the Chesapeake Corporation. She was the heart of the Ryczak family home as she washed, fed, nurtured, protected, encouraged, suffered with and rejoiced with her five children as they grew into adults. The greatest joy in her life was her 10 grandchildren, whom she adored. She loved spending Christmas, birthdays, weekends and the family's summer beach week in the Outer Banks with all of them together. And then more love and joy arrived with her four great-grandkids! She truly and deeply loved her family, her church community and her hometown of West Point. She was a family treasure and will be greatly missed.

Due to the current coronavirus restrictions, there will be only a graveside service for immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to either West Point Volunteer Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box X, West Point, Virginia 23181 or to Little Sisters of the

Poor, 1503 Michaels Road, Henrico, VA 23229.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



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**Jack Borinski** - May 07, 2020 at 11:42 AM

WB

“ Pat and I are so sorry for your loss. Virginia was a dear person. She was one of the first people to welcome me to West Point 35 years ago. I remember her taking me to Richmond to shop and that was the beginning of a wonderful friendship. Pat especially remembers her delicious baked goods that she so generously shared. We have one of your Dad's Japanese maple trees in our backyard. Heaven just got another angel.

*Wini Barron*

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**Wini Barron** - May 06, 2020 at 11:00 PM

MA

*She treasured your friendship Wini, and both she and dad so enjoyed knowing you all. Thank you for the love and friendship you gave to my mom over the years. Maryann*

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**Maryann** - May 14, 2020 at 08:09 PM

AJ

“ I’m so sad to hear this news! Mr. and Mrs. Ryczak were fine people. One of my favorite memories was going over to their house to see the trains at Christmas time. Your mom’s smile always made you feel welcome. Lifting the family up in prayer.

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**Anne Pillsbury Johnson** - May 06, 2020 at 09:50 PM

MA

Thank you so much for your message of warm memories. Your family and mine were truly blessed with wonderful and caring mothers!

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**Maryann** - May 14, 2020 at 08:11 PM

CB

“ What a delightful trip down memory lane! Thanks for sharing these great photos, especially of her early years. I'd forgotten what a good looking man Stanley was; they made quite a handsome couple, and were no doubt West Point's own "Power Couple"! You can tell from the photos what a quintessential mother she was - baking, quilting, cuddling little ones, but I'm glad she also got to see and enjoy so much of the world beyond West Point. I always enjoyed my visits with Maryann in West Point, and being with your mom - it was so calming! And those cinnamon rolls; I can still taste them now! She was especially blessed to have such a loving family to take care of her in her later years. She enjoyed a long and happy life - what more could you ask for? But still, we will all miss her. Sending love and hugs to the entire Ryczak clan!

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**Carol G Baker** - May 06, 2020 at 01:20 PM

MA

thank you so much CB, for your beautiful message and for your love and friendship over the many years. Mom certainly enjoyed seeing you whenever we all could get together. and you're right...Those Cinnamon rolls were the Best Ever!!

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**Maryann** - May 14, 2020 at 08:13 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



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**Maryann** - May 06, 2020 at 11:39 AM

BB

“ *All of these tributes and photos have brought so many memories back of happy times with the whole Ryczak clan. I loved seeing the wedding photos--what a beautiful bride your mom was! You can tell from the photos that she had loving relationships with all her children, their spouses, and her grandchildren and their spouses. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos and memories. It was a lovely look back at the life of this wonderful and much beloved woman.*

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**Barbara L Baker** - May 05, 2020 at 02:46 PM

“ To "Nanny" On Your 80th Birthday

*In West Point there lives a Grand Dame  
They now call her "Nanny" by name.  
On Ogden Street the baby Virginia was born  
On one early September morn.*

*Her father worked in the mill  
Making paper for sales orders to fill.  
Her mother was named Annie  
A loving wife and mother was she.*

*As a child Virginia had chores  
Such as cleaning and sweeping the floors.  
There were chickens the family raised  
And her job was to gather their eggs.*

*In high school the boys lined up to ask her out  
But of her true love, she knew there was no doubt.  
She had met a young Polack from PA  
For the summer to West Point he came to stay.*

*The Polack's name was Stan  
And she knew he would become her man.  
But their courtship was interrupted  
When Stan went off to be inducted.*

*Into the Army Air Corps he went  
And off to war he was sent.  
In his air crew and Old Ironsides he put his trust  
To come home to his Ginny he knew he must.*

*After the war a marriage there would be  
Followed by a trip for Stan to become a Penn State Nittany.  
After college back to West Point the couple did go  
To start a new job and a family also.*

*Don't you know it, before too long  
Robert, Maryann, Paul and Maureen came along.  
Sometime later they came to realize  
That Martha would come along to make it five.*

*During this time "Nanny" was still not yet her name,  
But all of her kids called her Mom just the same.  
Soon, her kids would grow up and leave her home  
She was sad because she missed them and she would moan.*

*But she would travel to see them including trips overseas  
And there were weddings to attend, if you please.  
With her kids' marriages her family began to swell  
With in-laws named Bill, Mike, Eric and Sonia as well.*

*During this time "Nanny" was still not her name  
But things would soon change and never be the same.  
When her grandchildren arrived it became clear  
That the time for her new name was near.*

*Many names were considered quite carefully  
And to her grandkids, their special "Nanny" she would be.  
And we are all here today  
To wish her a special and Happy 80th Birthday!!*

*We Love you, Nanny  
September 30, 2006*

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**Maryann** - May 05, 2020 at 02:17 PM

MA

*Poem written by Bill Casterline*

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**Maryann** - May 06, 2020 at 09:16 AM

MW

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



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**Martha Whiteley** - May 05, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about your mothers passing. I remember her very well as a very sweet lady. Always was so nice to me and the Borinski's. Robert, I remember us having a lot of fun playing in the yard and giving Maryann a hard time. Ginger always enjoyed playing with Maryann. We always seemed to be at the catholic church together. You two were part of a big beautiful family too like us and with plenty of love to go around. We all had wonderful parents that raised us right and were very proud of us. I know you all will miss your Mom very much. My prayers and thoughts go out to the family. Love, Jack...  
Ps. My Mom recently had a stroke and has home health care and getting therapy. Just needs more time to recover.

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**Jack Borinski** - May 05, 2020 at 10:23 AM

MC

*Thank you for this posting Jack. Wonderful memories of our childhood days. and yes, Ginger and I always had so much fun together. Please give her my best. Maryann*

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**Maryann Ryczak Casterline** - May 09, 2020 at 09:08 AM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



Maryann - May 05, 2020 at 08:31 AM

DF

“ Such a sweet lady. I always enjoyed speaking with her whenever I would run into her. Hugs to her family and may God's blessings be upon you.



Donna Fudala - May 04, 2020 at 07:16 PM

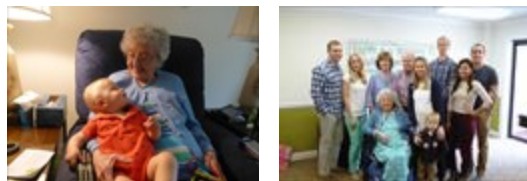
MA

Thank you Donna for your kind message. You were a dear friend to mom, especially after dad's passing, and a huge help after she lost her driver's license! She was very fond of you, your sisters, and your parents over the years. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness to mom. She loved opening the greeting cards you'd send to her.--  
Maryann

Maryann - May 05, 2020 at 02:11 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



Maryann - May 04, 2020 at 01:08 PM

TF

“ I don't know where to begin...so many wonderful memories of our neighbors, the Ryczaks, backyard picnics, joyous Christmas holidays with everyone together in the family, those wonderful blueberry pies and pierogies that Virginia made, and the closeness I always felt because of our relationship as cousins. I would visit Virginia in West Point before she moved to assisted living in Northern Va. as often as I could...she was always so gracious and pleasant to be with. She would always show me the latest photos of her grandchildren for whom she was so very proud. When she moved to assisted living at The Virginian (By the way, I played solo accordion/vocals for that group in the early 2000's in NOVA when I was touring and traveling) I would phone her from home here in Richmond. We would chat and she always expressed how happy she was to be near her family in NOVA. Remember children and grandchildren that your Mother and Grandmother is now at peace in heaven for eternity with your Dad and Grandfather. I would like to think that the two of them are joined by my Mom and Dad and having the best time each day with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God bless each of you and please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of this wonderful woman.

Tom Fudala - May 04, 2020 at 10:59 AM

MR

Thank you Tom for your very kind words. She truly loved your visits after Dad had passed away. Many memories with all the Fudalas.  
Maureen Radford

Maureen Radford - May 04, 2020 at 04:52 PM

RR

Beautiful, Tom, thank you. Your music during our neighborhood gatherings was very special. I can imagine Ginny and Stan and Mary and Andy kicking up in the parish hall to the 'Cotton Eye Joe' or a good polka. Your words of comfort are very much appreciated.  
Robert Ryczak

Robert Ryczak - May 04, 2020 at 05:51 PM

MW

*I loved the memories you posted. It was such a blessing, growing up with our cousins right next door. Your mother and ours loved each other deeply. Mom so enjoyed your mother's daily visits -- the quick knock at our kitchen door immediately followed by her signature whistle that meant "Hello, I'm here for a visit"! They would sit at our kitchen table and chat about how their day was going, or their husbands and their kids, and would always share a good laugh or two. I'm happy they're now able to have their daily visits once again -- together in heaven. Thanks Tom -- from cousin Martha*

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**Martha Whiteley** - May 04, 2020 at 09:15 PM

JW

“ so sorry to hear this news..She will be remembered as a kind, caring lady of west Point.She always made me smile.

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**Janie Wampler** - May 04, 2020 at 08:16 AM

MA

*Thank you so much for your kind message. She never lost her caring ways, and good nature.*

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**Maryann** - May 14, 2020 at 08:16 PM

MA

“ On Thursday our beloved Nanny, aka Great Nanny, aka Mom, aka Virginia, passed away quietly in her sleep mid morning. I just know she was immediately hugging her Stanley, my Poppy. She was the best hugger. When I'd go visit, even into her 90s, she would hug you so tight and so close and just long enough and would laugh saying “You just like to squish into me and my boobs!” She perfected the art of baking, especially cinnamon buns and her sweet bread. Her home immediately felt of family joy and I will forever remember the Christmases there, the smell of her pantry, of sneaking out to the garage with cold toes on the concrete and old rugs to get cookies and chex mix chilling out there.

Over the years I had her fill out “Story of my life” type books and I sat with her in her home during grad school and at the beach, asking her all sorts of questions about her life. She'd ask after a good amount of questions “Why do you want to know all this?” And I would tell her “well obviously because I love you, but the story of you becomes the story of me too.” She spoke the most about her husband Stanley, my Poppy. He was her first date, her first kiss, and when sharing of her favorite adventures (travels with him for sales calls to Europe and their 50th anniversary cruise with the whole family), she said it was “a wonderful life.” Jotted that down right away.

I loved the hours spent in her home pouring over her cookbooks and recipe cards, scanning them in, typing them up in the computer. I know, in my core, I inherited something special from her, from both grandmas: we show love through food, through making deliciousness for those we love, we take care of them that way. The family cookbooks that came from that endeavor are priceless.

She was 93 years old. 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren with a 5th arriving in August. Her love is in us, will forever be carried by us, she set that standard. No virus or scary times right now takes an OUNCE of that from her and from her family. I am proud to be her granddaughter, proud of the family she

*helped to build (I love you all) and will be so proud to pass along to my child one day how to put just the right amount of brown sugar and cinnamon in those buns. (The secret: always add more, like I did when Nanny turned her head for a second. But I'm pretty sure she knew.)*

*Love you Nanny, always. With your Stanley now and your parents. Keeping watch over us. Kathryn Casterline*

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**Maryann** - May 03, 2020 at 11:05 PM

MW

*Kathryn - that was absolutely beautiful and spot-on memories of Nanny. What a wonderful and uplifting tribute you posted - I truly enjoyed reading it. Thank you, Aunt Martha*

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**Martha Whiteley** - May 04, 2020 at 12:10 PM

RR

*Beautiful, Kathryn, and very much appreciated and comforting. Uncle Robert*

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**Robert Ryczak** - May 04, 2020 at 05:52 PM

JR

“ *John & Vickie Roane lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mary Bernoskie Ryczak*



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**john & vickie roane** - May 03, 2020 at 09:37 PM

CH

“ I just heard about your mother's passing. She was truly a lovely lady and I admired and liked her so much. We had many talks when I worked for Mr. Baird and your dad, and we've kept in touch ever since. She was so proud of her children, and was an inspiration to me when I left Chesapeake to become a mother. I always loved hearing about each of you and your families. My thoughts and prayers are with you all as you grieve this dear woman.

*Cindy Horsley, Gloucester, Virginia*

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**Cindy Horsley** - May 03, 2020 at 09:14 PM

MA

*Thank you so much for your beautiful message. Mom thought the world of you, how professional you were at Chesapeake, but also how warm and personal you were with her. She always enjoyed hearing from you too! and you're right, she was a "dear woman".*

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**Maryann** - May 14, 2020 at 08:19 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Maryann** - May 03, 2020 at 08:29 PM

MA

“ 15 files added to the album Virginia



Maryann - May 03, 2020 at 07:46 PM

MW

Maryann - I LOVE all the photos you posted and so glad you added ones from Mom (and Dad's) younger years. They were such a handsome couple. 'Love all the different pics of each of her children and their families - a beautiful tribute to our most wonderful Mom. Thanks for sharing these photos, Martha

Martha Whiteley - May 04, 2020 at 12:15 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Maryann Ryczak Casterline - May 03, 2020 at 05:08 PM

MC

“ 2 files added to the album Virginia



Maryann Ryczak Casterline - May 03, 2020 at 04:21 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Virginia



Maryann Ryczak Casterline - May 03, 2020 at 03:21 PM

PA

“ This is Paula Armstead I am sorry about Virginia passing often thought about her. We had wonderful talks when I did her hair in West Point and I will truly miss her.

Paula Armstead - May 03, 2020 at 01:44 PM

MC

She was so very fond of you Paula, and would often tell me "She really knows how to style my hair just right!" You were not just her hairdresser, but her friend too and I appreciate all that you did for her.  
Maryann

Maryann Ryczak Casterline - May 03, 2020 at 03:12 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Maryann - May 03, 2020 at 11:59 AM

MC

*Making her famous Cinnamon Buns!*

Maryann Ryczak Casterline - May 03, 2020 at 12:23 PM

MW

“ 15 files added to the album Virginia



Martha Ryczak Whiteley - May 03, 2020 at 10:13 AM

MA

*Great photos Maureen and Martha! What a happy mom and Nanny she was.*

Maryann - May 04, 2020 at 01:09 PM

BH

*I am so sorry to see of your mother's passing. I loved stopping by to visit her when I taught there for a year and when I would come to West Point for a visit. She was beautiful inside and out and loved telling about all of her family! What a joy to see all of the wonderful pictures you have all posted. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Heaven has certainly gained another angel!*

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**Betty Rodman Harris** - May 10, 2020 at 02:31 AM