



Betty S. Ratliff

June 27, 1932 - March 22, 2022

Betty S. Ratliff passed away peacefully on March 22, 2022, with her family by her side. She was born on June 27, 1932, the second child and first daughter of Bert and Ivy Stratton. With her big brother Wayne and younger sister Barbara, the family was complete. The family lived in Everson, Washington where Betty talked fondly of a childhood spent clamming at Birch Bay, picnicking near Mt. Baker, and picking berries at local farms in the summers. Growing up very close to her grandmother, Annie Arnell who was a dressmaker, Betty's lifelong love of sewing began. At a young age she also learned to knit, crochet, and embroider. Betty was musical, too, where in school she sang in the choir and played the piano and snare drum. She sang in the church choir in Virginia Beach and Vienna, VA for many years. After graduating from Mt. Baker High School in 1950, Betty went on to St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Bellingham, Washington where in 1953 she earned her Nursing degree. Once finished with school, Betty worked with her brother who had recently finished medical school and established a local practice. The brother/sister Stratton medical team didn't last long though, as soon Wayne was called up from the Army Reserves to go to the war zone in Korea. Betty didn't stay idle for long, marrying Clint Upham in December 1954 and having their first child, Deborah (Debbie) Ann in September 1955. Clint's career with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (the predecessor to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]) soon had them crisscrossing the United States with their young and expanding family. Their

second child, Susan was born in Norfolk, VA (1959) followed by Bob in Honolulu, HI (1961) and finally Dan in St. Petersburg, FL (1963). After additional assignments in Berkley, CA and Virginia Beach, VA the family moved to Vienna, VA in 1970 where Betty was able to settle in one place for more than a few years.

In 1976 Betty and Clint divorced initiating her return to nursing where she worked at Sibley Memorial Hospital in the NICU. Soon she met another divorcee, Blake Ratliff, an engineer working for the Veterans Administration. After a short courtship they married in January 1979, expanding her family again with the addition of two stepdaughters – Julia (Julie) and Teresa (Annie). While Blake and Betty finished their careers, they planned for their retirement and designed and built their water-front, dream home in Montross, VA. In 1987, they retired to the Northern Neck of Virginia where Betty soon became active in the local garden club, the Altar Guild of the Yeocomico Church, Meals-on-Wheels and the local quilt guild. As Betty settled into retirement she finally had the time to pursue her love of quilting. But, after 17 wonderful years in Montross, Blake and Betty decided to downsize and move back to Northern Virginia to be closer to family.

In 2004, they moved into their home in the Regency at Dominion Valley in Haymarket, VA. There, Betty continued quilting becoming an active member of Haymarket Quilter's Unlimited, a founding member of the Regency Stitchers and since 2007 a member of the Mid Atlantic Applique Society (MAAS). She was a talented and prolific quilter who took great joy in giving away the quilts that she spent hours creating with love. She particularly enjoyed applique quilting and even taught classes at Suzzie's Quilt Shop in Manassas. Through quilting, Betty developed long time friendships with many fellow quilters and wonderful neighbors. In late 2019, Betty was contacted by the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, VA who asked her if she would be willing to come to the museum to do a trunk show and lecture. She was greatly honored and began gathering her many quilts and writing speaking notes as the date in the spring of 2020 approached. But, as COVID swept over the world, the

engagement was postponed several times before it was finally cancelled. In the fall of 2021 she opened her home to a large group of friends and was finally able to give her trunk show.

While quilting was Betty's passion, her first and greatest love was for her family. She was a beloved mother to her children, providing a home filled with love, gentle guidance and encouragement. She guided her children to explore music, sports and other areas of interest and mostly to be responsible and caring and to live life to the fullest. As the years passed, she found great joy and happiness as her family added grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Betty cherished the many family gatherings for birthdays and holiday celebrations which she never missed.

She will be profoundly missed by her husband Blake, children Debbie Hoibrotten, Susan Ralph, Bob Upham, Dan Upham (Kellie), Julia Groves (Joe) and Teresa Marsten (Jaime) along with her extended family and those who knew and loved her. She is also survived by her grandchildren – Michael Upham (Erin), Christopher Upham, Megan Upham, Lindsey Ralph, Taylor Upham, Kristina Maddox (Christopher), Justin Marsten (Catherine), Elisabeth Chidester (Todd), Joseph Groves Jr., Sarah Groves (Kelly) and Emily Groves, her great-grandchildren – Grace Upham, Thomas Upham, Anna Maddox, Chase Maddox, Lydia Marsten, Laiken Chidester, and Isaiah Groves-Cruz, and her nephews – Chuck Stratton and Mark Stratton.

Visitation will be held at Pierce Funeral Home (9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110) on Friday, April 8th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (6750 Fayette St, Haymarket, VA 20169) on Saturday, April 9th at 11:00 am. Committal Service – Quantico National Cemetery, Monday, April 11th.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

APR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6750 Fayette Street
Haymarket, VA 20169

Reception

APR 9. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room
9609 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

Interment

APR 11. 11:30 AM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *what an amazing person, Betty Ratliff, was!
I met Betty over 9 years ago when we opened our shop. Betty was a very talented quilter who always so generously share her quilting expertise.
She taught hand applique class at our shop. The students loved her and so did we.
She was a kind and wonderful lady. I miss seeing all her creations. She has made a different in so many lives in the very best way. I'm grateful I got the chance to know Betty.*

Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs to Betty's family. I'm so sorry for your loss

Susy Shafer, Suzzie's Quilt Shop - April 08, 2022 at 04:30 PM

RE

“ *Rodney & Jean Evans purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Betty S. Ratliff.*



Rodney & Jean Evans - April 08, 2022 at 02:15 PM

MF

“ *Marium Eamen & Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Betty S. Ratliff.*



Marium Eamen & Family - April 08, 2022 at 11:33 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty S. Ratliff.*



April 05, 2022 at 04:07 PM



“ *Dan and family, thinking of you and sending prayers to you for the loss of your beautiful mom. Knowing that the end of life does not end the relationship, I am sure you will find her in interesting ways peeking into your lives in the years ahead. From a family that loves quilting too, it is my honor to make a donation in her memory to the museum. Beautiful people make beautiful things, and I hope you will snuggle warmly in the quilts she made.*



Dianna Seaborn

Dianna Seaborn - April 05, 2022 at 01:14 PM



“ *Dave and Ilene Ritter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty S. Ratliff.*



Dave and Ilene Ritter - April 05, 2022 at 11:51 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Betty S. Ratliff.*



April 04, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I met Betty in Haymarket Quilters Unlimited in 2006. We worked together on many projects including monthly Community Service, The Evergreen Fire Dept quilt hanging in the Haymarket Library and the Town of Haymarket Quilt, in the Town Hall (she created an appliqued farm scene without a pattern in an afternoon). We enjoyed many retreats with her also and she was a very valuable member of our guild. She was an extremely talented quilters, a calm, gentle, lady. It was an honor to know her, have her friendship and I feel very privileged to have her amazing applique in the center of a quilt.*

Linda Jamrogowicz - March 31, 2022 at 11:46 AM



“ *Betty was one of the first friends I made when I moved to Regency 16 yrs. ago. We were connected by quilting, nursing, and St. Joseph's Hospital where she trained. She has such a special place in my heart for her gentleness, kindness, patience, and humility. She was a regal lady.*
Joyce Tobias

Joyce Tobias - March 28, 2022 at 06:46 PM

PF

“ I met Betty at the first Haymarket Quilt Guild meeting I attended in September 2005. One of Betty's quilts was displayed and I just had to meet her. That is when I found out she was teaching a workshop on hand turned appliqué. I immediately signed up. Betty was an awesome instructor. She was so talented, kind and patient with us newbies to quilting. She will be missed!!

Pat Ferrara - March 28, 2022 at 03:33 PM

DF

I have known Betty for 42 years, she always had a crooked smile and smiled and laughed freely. She was soft spoken, and reminded me of June Cleaver everytime I saw her, perfect skin, hair, makeup, and outfit. Even at nearly 90 years old, she still drove Blake and herself around with no problems. Diane and I will miss her Dearly. She was simply a lovely person who cherished her friends and Family.

Dwight Flynn - April 08, 2022 at 02:17 AM

 Julia Graves

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. I knew her from the Haymarket Quilt Guild and she was always such a warm and welcoming presence and made the most beautiful quilts. I will miss her greatly.

Julia Graves

Julia Graves - March 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM

LD

“ Betty was a truly wonderful person. I have one of her beautiful quilts. I traded her a painting I did for it. It is always on my bed and is there right now. I will always treasure it!

Her and Blake were 2 of my favorite people! Sorry to hear of her passing.

Lonnie Davis, nephew

Lonnie Davis - March 26, 2022 at 02:24 PM