



Clara Lou Malenick

March 21, 1932 - March 13, 2025

Clara Lou Perkins Malenick departed this life for her home in Heaven on March 13, 2025, one week short of her 93rd birthday at her home 8913 Early Street in Manassas.

Born Clara Blanch Bryant on March 21, 1932, she was three weeks old when her birth mother died. The next three weeks were spent on her neighbor's oven door before adoption by John and Anna Perkins of Sam Black Church (Clintonville) WV and her name changed to Clara Lou. This being the year of the depression – her adopted brother J. Elbert Perkins said “they were depressed ever since”. Clara Lou attended school at Crawley, then Smoot High School (class of 1950 Valedictorian), Concord College (B.S. in Education) and later the University of Virginia for her Master of Education degree in 1970. Clara Lou often made it a point to work with children when learned they were adopted. She never met a child that she could not teach.

She often said “she had birth parents and sisters, a step mother, adopted parents and an adopted brother and sister”. Clara Lou wanted to be a doctor but became a teacher. Her teaching career started (1952/1953) in a 6/8 grade one room school; ages 6 to 16 at Quinwood/Creighton WV. She taught both the Hatfield's and McCoy's and dealt with far greater conflicts than those that started over a pig. She also taught special needs children while integrating them into a regular classroom. After 40 plus years of teaching and substituting

in multiple counties of West Virginia moving to Virginia in 1963 to join the Prince William County school system, Lynchburg and later Manassas City schools -- Clara Lou retired after teaching three generations of students. Her classrooms were often referred to as the United Nations.

While attending Concord College Clara Lou met her future husband Paul Steven Malenick; known as Paul to his family yet at Concord chose to go by Steve. They married December 22, 1957 and celebrated 67 years of marriage this past December (2024). Their two daughters; Anna Lee and Carolyn Sue were both born in Iaeger, WV (McDowell County). Thus the values of "Up on the Hill" (Farm – Greenbrier County) merged with "Down on the Creek" (Coal Mines – Fayette County) in wild wonderful West Virginia. Clara Lou loved her West Virginia history.

Looking Back Clara Lou wrote and often stated "Growing up in the 1930's we were poor, and I didn't know it. There was always food on the table – raised on the farm and supplemented by the garden, Mom's chickens and eggs. We had cherries, apples peaches and wild berries to pick. We would walk to church for morning and evening services – looking forward to revival meetings. Yes, we were poor, but I have rich memories. Poor in fact but wealthy in spirit."

It is in keeping with this same spirit, the family has chosen to celebrate Clara Lou's transfer to Heaven with rich memories. The family will receive guests at their home: 8913 Early Street, Manassas VA on Friday evening, April 25th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm (food, music and fellowship) followed on Saturday, April 26th with a "Celebration of Life – Church Style Service" at 10 am at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110. A meal will follow the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26.** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

APR **26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Reception

APR **26.** 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Clara Lou Malenick*



Pierce Funeral Home - April 22, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *David and Anne Locke purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.*



David and Anne Locke - April 25, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.*



April 24, 2025 at 01:42 PM

WG

“ Woods Girls purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.



Woods Girls - April 23, 2025 at 04:13 PM

WG

“ Woods Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clara Lou Malenick.

Woods Girls - April 23, 2025 at 04:13 PM

CP

“ CG and I are so very sorry for the loss of Clara Lou. She was a wonderful friend to us. We know how much you will miss her. Carolyn you were a wonderful daughter to her for sure and you loved her so much as well as the love that Steve had for his precious Clara Lou. What a special love they had for each other. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family which we love you all very much.

CG and Becky Perry

CG and Becky Perry - April 23, 2025 at 03:06 PM

JP

“ I miss you ❤️. From the first time I met you, you were kind, sweet and welcoming. I will miss our visits, our conversations and just our special times spent together. Thank you for making me “one of your daughters”. Knowing you has been my pleasure. You will live in my heart forever 🙏. You surely earned your place with Jesus. Until we meet again. I’ll always love you.

Janet Plevniak and Tim

Janet Plevniak - April 23, 2025 at 01:03 PM

TF

“ The Paul Long family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.



The Paul Long family - April 21, 2025 at 03:50 PM

CB

“ Anna Lee and Carolyn, I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember both of you and your parents at Parkside Elementary school in the early seventies. My mom was Virginia Plummer and she taught there with your folks. Your mom was such a sweet lady. Please know you all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Cindy Burke - April 17, 2025 at 11:11 AM

HH

“ Holly Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clara Lou Malenick.

Holly Hall - April 17, 2025 at 08:26 AM



“ *Holly Hall purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.* ”



Holly Hall - April 17, 2025 at 08:26 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara Lou Malenick.* ”



April 16, 2025 at 01:22 PM