



Ethel (Virginia) Ryder Kennedy

May 2, 1933 - May 28, 2026

Ethel (Virginia) Ryder Kennedy, age 93, of Gainesville, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Born on May 2, 1933, in Culpeper County, Virginia, she was the daughter of James and Alice Judd Ryder. She married Thomas Kennedy on March 6, 1953. Ethel lived her entire life in Northern Virginia.

Ethel was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Thomas S. Kennedy, and her son, Craig Randall Kennedy.

She was devoted to family and loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Ethel is survived by her son, James (Kimberly) Kennedy of Great Falls, Virginia; daughter, Jill (Scott) Carlson of Gainesville, Virginia; and was the proud grandmother of Megan (Jon) Keller, Mark Everett, Kyle (Christina) Kennedy, and Whitney (Matt) Dragan. She adored her great-grandchildren, Jameson, Charlotte, Chandler, Bradley, and Sunny. She is also survived by her brother, William (Elizabeth) Ryder.

Her career began at The Fauquier Democrat newspaper, and many years later, she retired from Verizon. After retirement, she continued to work and volunteer with organizations including the Lions Club, Pioneers, Hylton Performing Arts Center, and Haymarket Medical Center.

Ethel's deep Christian faith was evident to everyone she met. She treasured family and friends and made all feel welcome. Ethel enjoyed the outdoors, birdwatching, tending flowers, and traveling. She loved entertaining and cooking for large gatherings, especially the annual Kennedy summer BBQ, which she hosted for many years. She continued to cook for family and guests on Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, and other special occasions.

Ethel will be deeply missed by family and friends and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:23

Interment will take place at Stonewall Memory Gardens at a later date.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception to follow the service.

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Reception

JUN 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

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