



## Julia Frances Gentry

April 24, 1939 - November 11, 2024

Julia Frances Gentry, 85, passed into the hands of our Lord on November 11, 2024.

Jill, as she was known to so many of her friends, was the daughter of Roger and Hazel Gentry. She was born in Ohio and grew up in Kentucky. Upon finishing her college education, she moved to Manassas where she was an avid teacher of history and government in Prince William County Public Schools for 26 years. Most of her teaching career was at Stonewall High School where her innovative ideas fostered a love of learning in her students and engaged them to become active citizens in the community around them. When she retired from teaching in the public schools, her love of learning and her love for travel inspired her to start a travel school which she operated successfully for many years and also worked as a full-time travel agent in order to help others experience her love of traveling.

Jill joined the International Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in 1958 and remained active in it the rest of her life. Over the years, she achieved every degree, culminating in the prestigious Torchbearer Degree. Her dedication earned her the Silver Circle, Gold Circle, and Diamond Circle honors. She also held the esteemed Order of the Rose. Her dedication to everything she did earn her many honors and recognitions over the years including appearing in the 1976 Bicentennial Edition of Notable Americans of the Bicentennial Era.

Jill never stopped learning and never stopped educating others. Showing her love of photography, she always had a camera in hand and captured every landscape she traveled to. Her beautiful photographs helped her to share her travels with others over the years. After retiring from her formal professions, she was very active in the senior citizens Blue Birds and Lifelong Learning Institute – Manassas where she was known as an energetic volunteer on the program committee where she planned and coordinated many bus trips throughout the area.

Jill was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Manassas. In accordance with her wishes, there will be no service, and burial will be private in Kentucky.

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ I first met Jill in the early 1960's in Kentucky where she taught my high school American history class. Jill was a good teacher who was not much older than her students. What I remember most about her class is that she allowed space for our occasional hi-jinks and rowdiness while never losing sight of the need for learning. Years later she told me that the isolated location of the classroom gave her the freedom for more relaxed discipline.

I ran into Jilly years later in Manassas after she became one of my daughter's teachers at Stonewall Jackson High school. She also joined my family at our Thanksgiving table for at least 30 years. Jill was a friend, a former teacher, and travel agent for fun trips and difficult ones. We missed her this year at Thanksgiving, but she will always be part of our family.

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David Cossey - December 04, 2024 at 08:41 AM

SB

“ Almost a month later I hear of Jill's death . She and I were friends at Stonewall Jackson High where we both taught. Later we and other friends who retired from teaching ,met monthly for lunch in Manassas area restaurants. In spite of many messages and attempts to reach her over the last few months, I now today was notified that Jill is gone. With great sympathy to her family and friends I share your grief at the loss of a wonderful lady. SPBrooks

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S Brooks - December 03, 2024 at 01:43 PM