



Kittie Jean Blakemore

November 27, 1928 - July 29, 2020

Kittie formerly of Manassas, VA passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, VA. Coach Blakemore was the first women's basketball coach in West Virginia University history and a pioneer in the establishment of Mountaineer women's athletics.

Kittie is survived by her sister Ann B. Ramsey (William) of Manassas, VA; nephews William H. (Celia) and Jeffrey A. Blakemore (Lynn); great-nephews Max H. (Nazmiye), Robert (Kimberly), Ryan W. and Tyler Blakemore; great-niece Mary B. Smith; four great-great nieces and dear friend Paul Mauck. Kittie is predeceased by her parents Roy H. and Jessie A. Blakemore; son William H. Blakemore and his late wife Mary Mason Blakemore; aunt Kittie L. Eaves and nephew Richard Blakemore.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 4 till 6 PM at Pierce Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 9609 Center St. Manassas, VA, where a funeral service will be held on Wednesday at 11 AM. Interment following at Stonewall Memory Gardens.

Contributions may be made to the Kittie J. Blakemore Women's Athletic Scholarship, checks payable to the West Virginia University Foundation and mailed to: Mountaineer Athletic Club, in memory of Kittle J. Blakemore, PO Box 877, Morgantown, WV 26507.

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

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

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Graveside Services

AUG **12**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Coach Blakemore affected my life in so many ways. I joined the USMC after my WVU attendance.. I knew her and coach Elemore. They both taught me so much about life ... I am sad to see this tonight .. I know your up there w the angels of ladies basketball and female atheletes everywhere. May god bless your family and you ... you are loved and remembered*

jean cogger - February 01, 2023 at 12:37 AM

BF

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Becky Franklin - August 18, 2020 at 09:10 PM

DC

“ *<https://twitter.com/wvuwbbs/status/1295133971743989760?s=21>*

Dana Crone - August 17, 2020 at 11:11 AM

LF

“ *I was always hoping that Kittie and I would one day meet again after we both left Morgantown. Her friendship meant a lot to me, and I, as well as many others, will cherish her memory forever. Thank you, Kittie, for lifting me up when the daily road got bumpy!*

Louise Fiske - August 13, 2020 at 02:45 PM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Cynthia “Sam” Booth - August 12, 2020 at 02:33 PM

JM

“ Our hearts are saddened by the passing of Coach Kittie, but the opportunity we were given to have this precious lady in our lives fills our hearts with overwhelming joy! Coach Kittie sent trails blazing her entire life. These trails opened opportunities one could hardly fathom.

Coach Kittie had a special sweet twinkle in her eyes. But don't let this twinkle fool you! Underneath this twinkle was a determined , ferocious , supportive and tireless worker who would fight for what she thought was right. Coach Kittie had a love unmatched for her basketball family. This love was reciprocated 100 times over. Coach Kittie was our mentor and our mom away from home . What an example Coach set for all of us about life itself. After our playing days were over, Coach was always there for us. Coach Kittie holds a special place in my heart and in the hearts of many. A very unique, loving, caring woman - gone but NEVER forgotten . Rest In Peace.

Love you always,

Jean "Beanie" Mewshaw

WVU #35❤️💙💛🙏

jean mewshaw - August 12, 2020 at 09:57 AM

HC

“ *Kittie and her mom Jessie Blakemore were long time wonderful friends and neighbors to us. We used to sit on her Victorian home front porch and chatted many afternoons and evenings. We are so sorry that Kitty left us but we have wonderful memories of good times. We will honor her memory with a contribution to the Kittie J. Blakemore Women's Athletic Scholarship fund. Harriet and Robert Carter, Manassas.*

Harriet W Carter - August 11, 2020 at 04:40 PM

CB

“ To the family of Coach B:
Coach left an indelible mark on the lives of many people and she will be sorely missed. I am sad, sad to the depth of my soul that I will never hear her voice again, hear her infectious laugh, feel her warm hugs, or see her at the next WBB reunion. Known by endearing names such as Coach B, Coach Kittie, Miss Kittie, Coach Blakemore, or Kittie by her staff, players, students, faculty and other coaches, she was revered. I remember In 1973, I had registered and was accepted to attend Marshall University because women’s basketball had been established already for several years and WVU wasn’t starting it’s program until 1973. My dad wanted me to attend WVU since my twin was accepted and one of our older brothers was a junior there on the men’s tennis team. Reluctantly, I applied and was accepted at WVU and withdrew my application at Marshall. In hindsight this was a great decision because I met Coach B who became my academic advisor, my professor, my coach, and my Mom away from home.

When I sustained a knee injury which resulted in surgery, Coach came to the hospital to be with me. She doted over me just like my mother would have and put a cold cloth on my forehead when I became sick from the anesthesia. Her calmness and caring permeated my room and made me feel like I was her child, and I suppose I was...all of us on the team felt we were her children. I can still remember her with me like it was yesterday.

Coach B was my mentor and I tried to emulate her traits of warmth, caring, compassion, professionalism, integrity, and positivity throughout my career. One of my greatest joys was coming back to work at WVU and being the Women’s Basketball Athletic Trainer to work alongside her. I witnessed firsthand all she had accomplished, not only as a coach, but as an administrator, fighting for the interests of women’s sports, not only at WVU, but within the former AIAW, and later with the NCAA. She was respected within the conferences as well.

Coach B, in my mind, is a legend at WVU! She will remain my



mentor and my hero. I am so saddened that COVID-19 kept us from being with her to take care of her in her final days like she took care of us so many years ago. Rest In Peace, Sweet Coach B!

With much love, but profound sadness,

C. "Sam" Booth, #12

WVU Women's Basketball

1973-77

Cynthia "Sam" Booth - August 11, 2020 at 02:37 PM

MF

“ *Martha and Gordon Thorn and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



Martha and Gordon Thorn and Family - August 11, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



August 11, 2020 at 09:13 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



August 11, 2020 at 08:37 AM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Cynthia "Sam" Booth - August 10, 2020 at 10:46 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



August 10, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album *Alumni pictures*



Dana Crone - August 09, 2020 at 08:39 PM

BF

Dana, I love this pic

Becky Franklin - August 20, 2020 at 10:45 AM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Alumni pictures



Dana Crone - August 09, 2020 at 08:37 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Alumni pictures



Dana Crone - August 09, 2020 at 08:36 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Alumni pictures



Dana Crone - August 09, 2020 at 08:31 PM

BF

“ BF

Becky Franklin

8 minutes ago

I'll never forget my high school coach telling me at a sectional play off game that a WVU coach was in the stands to watch me play. From the moment I met Coach Blakemore, I knew I wanted to be a part of the team she was building. When she said she would like me to be on her team, I said YES. What an experience it was. Being a member of the 76-79 team was thrilling as we worked hard to be competitive in the state and in the MAIAW Conference we joined in 1976. Trips to MI, Purdue, etc gave us a chance to show what Coach and her staff taught us..... which was so much more than playing the game. Her support, encouragement, guidance and work ethic were instilled in each of us. I will always be so very grateful that she gave a girl from Hopwood, PA a chance to be part of something that was so much more than we thought at the time. Her dedication and love for WVU, her students and her players was so evident when her name was announced at the alumni reunion. The crowd would stand and applaud and cheer loudly as she walked onto the court and waved to everyone. Those are some of the memories I will hold in my heart forever. The positive impact she had on my life is indescribable. I will miss her. I love you Coach. ❤️

Becky Franklin - August 08, 2020 at 02:23 PM

VL

“ Vicki Legg purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.



Vicki Legg - August 07, 2020 at 11:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



August 07, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ *As I began my college career in 1967, Kittie Blakemore was one of the first college professors that I meet. Although I never got to play for Coach B, I did get to learn many things from Coach. Honesty, humility and passion*

Those of us who were in the women's Physical Education department (at that time we were separate from the men) had a close knit group of students and instructors. Kittie was one who stood out in the group. She had a great sense of humor and a twinkle in her eyes. She took a group of us youngsters and molded us into basketball officials.

She helped me to become a better person and teacher. When I first started teaching, it was in Prince William County, where Coach B grew up. When teaching, many times I would look back and try to think of how Coach would handle situations. She was my role model.

Coach Blakemore was a special person. She will be missed and I want to thank her for everything she did for each of us. I love you.

Jennifer

jennifer jones - August 07, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“Coach B provided guidance and leadership to many athletes and students. Transferring to WVU was one of the best decisions of my life. WVU provided a solid foundation for my education and all aspects of my life. Basketball was a way of life for me. Our WVU basketball family has stayed a family since I played. I know I speak for all my fellow teammates when I say, we really appreciated Coach B’s guidance, spirit, and loving personality. She also taught me how to officiate volleyball and I officiated volleyball at the high school and college level for many years.

I remember Coach B’s induction into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. It is great that her name will be known as the pioneer in the establishment of Mountaineer women’s athletics. Kittie Blakemore had many awards and recognitions; however, what is most important is how she made people feel. Thomas Roosevelt stated: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”. This quote sums it all up.

“Life has to end. Love doesn’t.” – Mitch Albom

*You will always be loved by your basketball family.
#20 Carol Mousseau Biddington*

Carol Biddington - August 07, 2020 at 08:06 AM

TL

“ *Kittie Blakemore was a highly valued member of our Manassas, Virginia Myasthenia Gravis (MG) Support Group for many years. Whenever she could attend, she brought Dunkin' Donuts and was "the life of the party." She was a classy lady, always able to tell about her most recent trip back to her beloved West Virginia University for some function or other. She set the bar for the rest of us! She will not be forgotten! We loved her dearly!*

Thomas Larsen

Assistant Support Group Leader, Manassas, Virginia MG Support Group

Team Captain, MG Walk Team Tom's Rockets - Blast Off For The Cure!

THOMAS L LARSEN - August 06, 2020 at 06:28 PM

VT

“ *Veronica & Virginia Hammersmith, & Martha Thorn purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kittie Jean Blakemore.*



Veronica & Virginia Hammersmith, & Martha Thorn - August 06, 2020 at 05:56 PM

AK

“ I'll never forget when Coach B came to my HS Regional Basketball Tournament game! It was such a surprise! That is when she saw me in my cheerleading uniform because I had to go cheer at a boys basketball game. She was tickled!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to play the game that I love at the collegiate level and the opportunity to earn my BS degree as well!!

Your kindness and sweet smile will be missed! Rest in Heaven, Coach B!!!

Love,
Anna (Tillman) Kent

Anna (Tillman) Kent - August 06, 2020 at 01:33 PM

MB

“ So sad to hear of Coach Blakemore’s passing. She was such a strong, amazing woman and true pioneer in women’s athletics! I always wanted to play basketball for Coach Blakemore and the Mountaineers but she said I was “just a lil too short”!? (imagine that?! 🤔) after she told me that I told her “someday I would be a part of her team”! 3 years later I became part of her team as I was selected to work with the team as her athletic training student with my mentor Cynthia Sam Booth! My first day at practice I walked up to Coach Blakemore to ask her if she remembered telling me that & she said “yes, and I’m glad to have you as part of my team now”❤️ I learned a lot from Coach Blakemore during my time at WVU & working with the women’s basketball team was one of the best experiences I had at WVU- this “Lil” high school basketball players dream did come true! Keeping Coach Blakemore’s family, friends and many, many Mountaineers up in prayers! RIP Coach Blakemore you will always be in our hearts!! True Legend!



Marisa Brunett - August 06, 2020 at 10:49 AM

DC

“ Coach Kittie was such a special person. I will miss her calming influence, her loyalty, her warmth, her smile, her positive attitude, her example. I am a better person for having known her. She made the world a better place by the way she lived her life. I cherish the memories of time shared with her, and will forever remember her with love and gratitude. Thank you Coach Kittie. Rest in peace. 💙



Dana Crone

#20

1981-83

Dana Crone - August 05, 2020 at 11:57 PM

SM

“ Miss Kittie hired me in 1989 in the role of Administrative Secretary to help her with all aspects of the WVU Women's Basketball program. She was more than a boss...she was my friend ❤️ my confidant, someone who took the time to be there for anyone who needed her, and, she was like family to me. She kept every momento that someone gave her, and literally associated every gift with the person that gave it to her. She had lots of stories to tell. Even when she retired, we remained friends. We called each other at least once a month, and we would end the call with "I love you"...she will be missed.

Shirley Milush - August 05, 2020 at 08:01 PM

BF

I'll never forget my high school coach telling me at a sectional play off game that a WVU coach was in the stands to watch me play. From the moment I met Coach Blakemore, I knew I wanted to be a part of the team she was building. When she said she would like me to be on her team, I said YES. What an experience it was. Being a member of the 76-79 team was thrilling as we worked hard to be competitive in the state and in the MAIAW Conference we joined in 1976. Trips to MI, Purdue, etc gave us a chance to show what Coach and her staff taught us..... which was so much more than playing the game. Her support, encouragement, guidance and work ethic were instilled in each of us. I will always be so very grateful that she gave a girl from Hopwood, PA a chance to be part of something that was so much more than we thought at the time. Her dedication and love for WVU, her students and her players was so evident when her name was announced at the alumni reunion. The crowd would stand and applaud and cheer loudly as she walked onto the court and waved to everyone. Those are some of the memories I will hold in my heart forever. The positive impact she had on my life is indescribable. I will miss her. I love you Coach. ❤️

Becky Franklin - August 08, 2020 at 02:15 PM

LK



Lisa Klenner - August 11, 2020 at 10:16 PM

“ To the Family of Kittie J. Blakemore,

You may not know the depth of emotion stirred in the hearts of Kittie's West Virginia University family as a result of her passing. She was a leader among leaders and a guiding light in the darkness for many of us. From colleagues, administrators, coaches, assistant coaches, students, student athletes, secretaries, equipment managers, to the employee who cleaned the locker rooms; Kittie treated all the same way. She had a way about her which made everyone feel special and cared about every time one interacted with her. She taught us more than the subject matter in a classroom or a skill on the basketball court - she taught us about life; about right and wrong, about respect, about integrity, about loyalty, and most importantly - she taught us how to work out our obstacles in life and depend upon ourselves.

Many believe one of her greatest accomplishments was being the foundation or mother of the women's intercollegiate sports program at West Virginia University. And, yes, that was highly significant but the life skills she imparted upon those of us who coached for her and those who played for her was perhaps her most lasting legacy. The lessons she taught us shaped our lives and helped to make us better individuals. We left the university and went out into the world and imparted her lessons to those we touched in life. Kittie still lives. She lives in us and those we have helped in life.

What she gave us, we couldn't buy. She gave to each and everyone of us freely without any strings because she wanted us to be the best we could be. She was a very, very special person and she was loved deeply by many of us. She enriched the lives of all who knew her. Her West Virginia University family grieves with you but please know we celebrate her life and will never forget her. Kittie certainly left her earthly existence as a life very well lived. May God bless and comfort all of you in her family while we share memories and express our gratitude to a lady who loved and helped guide us all.

Sandra J. Elmore
Nitro, West Virginia

Sandra J. Elmore - August 05, 2020 at 12:05 PM

AB

“ From Alexis Basil

As I have read the kind words written and talked to many people over the past couple of days about the heartbreaking news of Coach Bs passing....

Words are not adequate for my feelings to express what this amazing woman has meant to me. I was one of the lucky ones to have this one of a kind lady in my life for 35+ years not just as my coach but as someone who became so much more as she did for so many others. She was grace, class, hair always perfect as she walked the sidelines with her clip board. Her stories and adventures as well as dancing to love shack before the games were priceless. But make no mistake about it she was tough as nails, would fight for you, and for what she believed in. It has been written many times this week about her life accomplishments and dedication to women's athletics. Coach B paved the way for many that may not have had the opportunities unless she was in the trenches fighting for all the young women that she came into contact with. A Pioneer a Trailblazer, a Legend all these are Miss Kittie Coach B.

I was blessed to play for her and WVU...Coach B was always there for the highs in my life and for a huge loss as she had been for all her players. Her hugs, calming words and advice will be missed (I was still seeking her advice just a year ago).

She truly is a WVU Icon who transcended sports and spent her entire life making a difference in other people's lives. She was a genuine, humble leader who focused on helping people achieve more than they thought they were capable of. Her legacy will live on through the countless people she touched throughout her career.

There will never be another Kittie Blakemore.. I was blessed beyond measure to have called her Coach B..My Family..My Mentor..My Friend.

Always in my Heart.

💔💙💛#31 🙏

Alexis Basil - August 04, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ *Cindy Chiarella lit a candle in memory of Kittie Jean Blakemore*



Cindy Chiarella - August 04, 2020 at 07:20 PM