



Mary C. Rettman

February 2, 1924 - January 13, 2021

Laughter and warmth when family and friends gather. So precious are these times we have together!

“We grieve, but not as those who have no hope.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13b

On January 13, 2021, Mary Christeene Smith Rettman, age 96, of Gainesville, Virginia passed peacefully at the old home place where she was born. One of eight children, Teene, as her siblings called her, was born at home in Gainesville, Virginia on February 2, 1924, the daughter of the late Andrew Jackson Smith and Mary Elizabeth Fletcher Smith Botts and step-father Thomas Cornelius Botts. Teene was raised on her family’s farm where she learned responsibility, deep love of God and family, values of honesty, hard work, and helping others that stayed with her throughout her life.

After graduating from Haymarket High School, she worked for the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. as a secretary. At a USO Dance in Washington, D.C., Chris met Johnny and they were married on July 6, 1946 in the old Gainesville United Methodist Church. As newlyweds Chris and Johnny moved to Erie, Pennsylvania, where she worked for General Electric until the birth of their first child Deborah. After five years they moved back to Gainesville, Virginia. Chris and Johnny raised Deborah, Joanne, and Sandra on the old home place. Once all the girls were in school, Chris worked various part time jobs. She was a talented seamstress sewing clothing, curtains, and upholstered furniture for a time. Then in 1972 she started driving a school bus for Prince William County, she continued to drive long after her girls where

grown and married. Happily, she welcomed three son-in-laws into the family, David, John, and Lee. Spoiled seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Enjoyed the company of relatives near and far, wonderful neighbors, and great friends. Chris and Johnny were lovingly devoted to each other for 72 years.

Chris thoroughly enjoyed her life on the old home place, tending to her chickens and savoring the taste of those fresh eggs. She enjoyed cooking and baking and many a fine meal was prepared lovingly for her family and friends. And she loved her chocolate chip cookies and tea every morning before breakfast! Most of all Chris loved and cherished her family instilling in them the values with which she was raised. Values that live on in her family. There are some things that never, ever leave us. A mother's love is one of them. Her love will be with us in spirit and in our hearts forever. Chris departs this earth to be with all the loved ones that have gone before and who are welcoming her home with open arms.

She is survived by her children Deborah Mary Compton (David), John R. Kipp, Sandra R. Cunningham (Lee), her grandchildren Artemus Kipp (Amy), Levi Kipp (Jenny), Chloe Kipp Knight (Joe), Claudia Compton Sullivan (Tim), Corinne Compton (Scott), Carisa Compton Clifford (Rusty), her great grandchildren Carley Levell (Curtis), Corey Compton, Zoe Kipp, Aidan Kipp, Owen Kipp, Declan Kipp, Garrick Kipp, Joanne Knight, Pandora Knight, Dracon Knight, and Camille Clifford, sister Sarah Elizabeth Smith Ait, and the many great neighbors, friends, and relatives.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Edward Rettman, daughter Joanne Christine Rettman Kipp, granddaughter Casie Nicole Compton, her parents, Andrew Jackson Smith and Mary Elizabeth Fletcher Smith Botts, step-father Thomas Cornelius Botts, her siblings Andrew "Buster" Smith, Artemus "Buddy" Smith, Curtis "Donald" Smith, Anna Doris Smith Bennett, Marion Smith Jones, and Wade "Calvin" Smith.

Burial will be a private family graveside service on January 26, 2021 at Sudley United Methodist Church Cemetery, 5308 Sudley Road, Manassas, Virginia

with Rev John Patterson officiating. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, post COVID, when we all can once again gather together.

The family would like to thank AmericCare Plus of Orange County and the caregivers, Susan, Shelia, Faye, Sandy and Staffing Coordinator, Mitzi, for their loving devotion and excellent care of our Mom. THANK YOU!

Tribute Wall

SC

“ *A MOTHER FINDS REST*
by Edgar A. Guest,

*And now she dwells where neither doubt nor fear
May find her breast;
No crying child may now disturb her here
Or break her rest.*

*Ended the ache of living. Here she lies
In wondrous peace.
God left a smile about her lovely eyes
With her release.*

*How oft we fretted her or caused her pain,
We cannot say.
Long hours she watched beside the window pane
With us away.*

*Her sleep we broke with whimpering and sighs
When we were ill.
Nor thought it much to rouse her with our cries,
As children will.*

*But now we suffer so, and vainly call
For her to come.
Her feet will never tread again the hall,
Her lips are dumb.*

*Love had no more sweet service to provide,
But this we know.
She'll watch for us upon the other side,
Who tried her so.*

Sandra R. Cunningham - February 10, 2021 at 06:16 PM

“ So saddened by the passing of my great Aunt Christeene. She was a beautiful lady inside and out; sweet as pie and never had a bad word to say about anyone...even if someone was worthy of it :-).

I had the great privilege of living just down the road from her for 47 years. One of my earliest memories was her serving as veterinarian to my pet rabbit and “operating” on her to make her well. That was my first realization of the gift she had with animals and over the years she helped me many times to nurse sick calves and chickens back to health.

We shared our gardening and animal stories with each other regularly (chickens in particular) and while she loved animals, being raised on a farm, she also had a very practical side and helped me butcher the first set of quail I raised, when I wasn't comfortable doing it myself yet.

She was happy with simple things, and I remember seeing her and Uncle Johnny so content just eating crabs and sweet corn, and listening to bluegrass at uncle Calvin's many get-togethers.

There were gifts of homemade grape jelly and pickle relish over the years, but none topped her annual chocolate chip Christmas cookies with black walnuts from the farm. This was a very generous gift indeed, and for those not familiar, it's a hard, dirty, multi-step process of gathering, cleaning, drying, cracking and separating the black walnuts. It's a labor of love for sure that she and my grandfather Buster both shared, but the reward is great and they'd both always say, 'there's no nut like it'.

As we both got older and she slowed down, I tried to reciprocate, but I know I never was able to fully give back, what she gave to me.

I loved her like a grandmother and will miss her tons, but happy she is reunited with Uncle Johnny and other family before her, and I feel blessed with many wonderful memories. Rest in peace, dear

Christeene.

Kevin Smith - January 24, 2021 at 11:45 AM

TC

“ *Thelma H. Carroll purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary C. Rettman.*



Thelma H. Carroll - January 20, 2021 at 08:23 PM

OL

“ Your mama was an amazing lady, I know your family will miss her deeply. Christeene and John was such a sweetheart couple. I met them first about 10 years ago, when I used to take my small kids for a walk on Artemus Rd. Every Sunday morning, around 10AM, I'd see their car going in the same direction – towards Catharpin Rd, to their church's Sunday service. John would always stop the car just to say Hello and ask how we are doing. I still remember his beaming, open and wide smile; he was a talker and open soul. Christeene would be sitting next to him and happily smile. They looked so close and inseparable, like two peas in the pod. It is a novelty to see such a great match in today's world. You could tell that - the two of them shared truly something special. Now the Twin Souls Reunite in Love and Life.

I'm grateful I had the chance to know your mom as she blessed so many people with her faith and kindness. Christeene was a very sweet and welcoming person. She was grateful and happy to see my mom or myself, when we would stop by her house to visit her in the past few years.

Please accept our sincere condolences. Praying you'll find comfort in your memories and in the knowledge that others are missing her too.

The Crowns.

Olga - January 19, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary C. Rettman.



January 16, 2021 at 02:51 PM

VT

“ *My sincere sympathy for all her family and friends. God Bless*

virginia Thorpe - January 16, 2021 at 02:30 PM

SM

“ *Sandra Moore lit a candle in memory of Mary C. Rettman*



Sandra Moore - January 15, 2021 at 04:26 PM

SM

“ *I am one that called her Mama Mary because when we talked about her Childhood to her Adulthood it was like learning something from the best teacher. Her days of a bus driver her days has a Mom and the joys of a good marriage better yet being a good person. I was blessed to meet her yes it is hard when we lose ones we love but everyone we lose becomes a guardian angel. To the family my deepest regrets and to her daughter Sandra and Son in law john Thank you for watching over all of us Caregivers. Mary I love you you will be missed. Forever dance. Sandy Moore caregiver.*

Sandra Moore - January 15, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary C. Rettman.*



January 15, 2021 at 11:52 AM