



Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts

October 23, 1939 - March 7, 2026

Mildred Mary (Krug) Counts, Millie to all who knew and loved her, passed peacefully on March 7, 2026 at home in Gainesville, Virginia at the age of 86 after a ten-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. Fittingly, Millie was surrounded by the family that she cherished and loved.

Millie was born on October 23, 1939 in the Bronx, New York to Mildred and William Krug. They were joined three years later by her younger sister Patricia (Pat). She and Pat, enjoyed the varied, colorful upbringing in New York City. Millie graduated from Saint Barnabas High School in 1957 and then proceeded to Katherine Gibbs Finishing School and English studies at Fordham University.

Millie met her future husband, Edward (Todd) Counts while on a blind double-date. Todd was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Despite their disparate upbringings, Millie a city girl, Todd a country boy from the "hollers" of Virginia, they quickly fell in love. They were married in West Point's Catholic Chapel in December following Todd's graduation. Their first Thanksgiving Day together, Millie gave birth to their daughter, Dawn. On the very next Thanksgiving Day there was a repeat performance; their son, Drew was born. Christy was the final addition born seven years later. This was the beginning of their 64-year union.

Millie was the consummate military wife demonstrating the resilience, agility and tenacity needed to pull the family together when Todd was regularly in the field or deployed overseas. She provided love and stability for the family at all times but especially while Todd was away.

She began a twenty-plus year professional career as a Federal Civil Servant once all three children were in school. During that time, she took great pride in the fact that she served in editorial and administrative positions with the Army, Air Force and Navy. This included editorial assistant for the Office of the Dean of Academics, West Point; Chief Administrative Officer for the Department of Operations Research, West Point. And after

Todd retired, somewhat ironically, they moved to Annapolis, MD, where she served as editorial assistant for the Naval Academy Superintendent's Office. There she managed, among other things, the congressional inquiries for the Naval Academy. (Go Army, Beat Navy).

Millie's greatest loves in life were family, God, friends, and travel. She learned these attributes from her parents both as a child and as an adult. Following the example set by her parents, who enjoyed spending summers with family at the Jersey Shore, Millie was an amazing and welcoming host. Colorado, West Point, and Italy were her favorite places to welcome people. The houses were always filled (often to the point of bursting) with friends and family. Their West Point tailgates were legendary.

Millie is survived by Todd; her sister Patricia Dwyer (Gerry); her brother-in-law Harold Counts; her three children Dawn (Counts) Panny, Drew Counts (Julie), and Christy (Counts) Finn (Michael); and her eight grandchildren CAPT Lauren Panny, Samantha (Panny) Aquilino (Zach), Sydney Panny, Mallory Panny, Cole Counts, 1LT David Counts, Sadie Finn, and Matt Finn. While three generations of Counts have inherited Millie and Todd's love of adventure and travel and are spread throughout the country, they will be poignantly travelling to Virginia to celebrate the life of their beloved, intrepid wife, mother, grandmother, and sister.

Services are as follows:

A visitation will be held from 6pm to 8pm this Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110

Catholic Mass will be the next day, Friday, March 13, 2026 at 10 AM at the St Katharine Drexel Mission, 15000 Waterfall Road, Haymarket, VA 20169.

A private burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined.

A Celebration of Life will be held following the mass on Friday at 11:30 AM at Heritage Hunt Country Club in the Blue Ridge Room on the main floor, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Millie's memory be sent to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, PO Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741. <https://www.michaeljfox.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Mass

MAR 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Katharine Drexel Mission
15000 Waterfall Road
Haymarket, VA 20169

Celebration of Life

MAR 13. 11:30 AM (ET)

Heritage Hunt Country Club
6901 Arthur Hills Dr
Gainesville, VA 20155

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Millie was a truly beautiful soul. She was graceful, warm, and kind in a way that made everyone around her feel cherished. When our children were young, she welcomed our family into her home for Easter, and she turned that day into one of the most memorable celebrations we’ve ever shared. Her gift for hosting was extraordinary. Every detail thoughtful, every moment filled with warmth and joy. The Easter baskets she created were nothing short of magical. Millie had a special way of making everyone feel seen and valued. She wanted every person in the room to feel special and she accomplished that beautifully.*

Lovely inside and out, Millie was the kind of person who treated everyone like family. Her kindness, thoughtfulness, and genuine care for others left a lasting impression on all who knew her. The memories she created and the love she shared will always be treasured. She will be deeply missed, but the warmth she brought into our lives will never be forgotten.

Jennifer & Randy

Randy and Jennifer Miller - March 13 at 09:18 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts.*



March 11 at 06:20 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts.*



March 11 at 01:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts.*



March 10 at 11:49 PM

LE

“ *Love, Diane & Ron Erale purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts.*



Love, Diane & Ron Erale - March 10 at 12:18 PM

DE

“ *Ron and I send our sincere condolences and prayers to you, Todd, and all of your beautiful family. Millie was such a beautiful person, inside and out. She was so friendly and welcoming to all and such an elegant hostess. I have so many fond memories of conversations with her at dinners, official events, and even at her own kitchen table in Villaggio. Millie always had time for the wives and the families of the group. She had a delightful sense of humor, too! You could literally see and feel her love for Todd and the kids. She will truly be missed by her family and friends, but we hope that the love and precious memories you all share will help ease your pain and grief. Her faith in God was strong and the life she lived was a testament to her Christian character. We will miss you, Millie. We are better off for having known you.*

Diane & Ron

Diane Erale - March 10 at 12:15 PM

DP

“ *Don Paglioni purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mildred Mary (Millie) Counts.*



Don Paglioni - March 10 at 11:00 AM