



Ressie G.

May 22, 1922 - June 10, 2013

Ressie Whorton Utz or "Grandma Utz" as she was known to so many, went to her final home with the Lord early Monday morning, June 10, 2013 just two weeks after celebrating her 91st birthday.

Ressie was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia on May 22, 1922 to Henry Taylor Whorton and Lilly Margaret Cloud Whorton. She was the fifth of their thirteen children. On March 18, 1939 she married widower Thomas Herbert Utz and became mother to his five remaining children: Menefee, Sonny, Evelyn, Lois and Donald Utz. Ressie and Tom also had four children of their own: Harold Ray "Dick" Utz, Marjorie Ann Grizzle; William Carson "Buck" Utz, and Glenna Margaret "Etta" Buchanan.

In her earlier years, Ressie worked in the Southern Garment Factory in Culpeper, VA before moving to Haymarket, VA . In 1957 she went to work for the new Woolworths opening in the Manassas and worked there until 1969. After her husband's death, Ressie moved to Manassas to live with her daughter, Ann, and son-in-law, Joel Grizzle, for many years before moving to her most favorite place on earth – Potomac Park Camp in Falling Waters, WV. While at Potomac Park Camp, Ressie enjoyed many years working on the staff and will be remembered by untold numbers of people for the hundreds of dozens of delicious homemade cinnamon rolls she made.

Ressie loved her little cottage at Potomac Park and to sit on her porch swing but mostly she loved her family, friends, and especially the Lord. In the fall of 1953, Ressie heard the voice of the Lord to surrender her life to Him and she

never regretted it for a moment. She loved Jesus and was happy to tell how He had changed her life to anyone who had time to listen. Ressie was a long time member at Centreville Assembly of God (Centreville, VA) and then in her later years a member at Marlowe Assembly of God. (Falling Waters, WV) Always a worker, Ressie was active wherever needed in church—from the cleaning crew to nursing home and jail ministries and she taught Sunday School for many years—from nursery age to adults. Ressie was known as a "prayer warrior" and you could be confident she would help you bring your requests to the Lord in prayer.

The last few years, Ressie's failing health and frailty meant she needed to move in with Buck and Rose and also with Etta and Jerry so she could receive the loving care she needed. On the Thursday before her death, the Lord graciously granted Ressie one last wish to visit her beloved cottage one more time. Etta took her up that day with the intentions of spending one night before coming back home. Ressie had a great day and enjoyed herself so much she kept saying "this feels just like Christmas." Later that evening her voice here on earth was silenced by a stroke.

Ressie is survived by her daughters, Evelyn Utz Pullen and Lois Utz Whorton; son, Donald Utz; son Buck Utz and wife, Rose; her daughter, Etta Buchanan and husband, Jerry; her son-in-law Joel Grizzle and wife Landra; and daughter-in-law, Shirley Utz.

She is survived by grandchildren: Floyd & Barbara Utz; Wayne & Lydia Utz; Pressley Pullen, Jr.; Nancy Pullen Cummins; Becky Pullen Lumpkin; Willie Pullen; David & Martha Pullen; Mary Pullen Clifton; Linda & Smokey Winstead; Jackie & Marke Rawlings, Frank Baylus Whorton II & wife Judy; Vickie and Riley Watts, Sr.

"Grandma Utz" is also survived by her four biological grandchildren, Jo Ann Grizzle and husband Rev. David Baird; Tommy Utz and his wife Donna; Chantel Utz and husband Rev. Wesley Beahm; and Kelly Grizzle and husband, Rev. Ron Woods. In addition she is "Grandma Utz" to 9 great

grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren. Ressie is also survived by her youngest sister, "Benny" Eunice Whorton and many nieces and nephews. Ressie was predeceased by her husband in 1963, her daughter Ann in 1981 and son Harold in 1995 and stepsons, Menefee and Sonny. She was also predeceased by all 7 of her brothers – Charles, Robert, Johnny, Baylus, Roy, Dee & George Whorton – and 4 sisters, Grace Corbin, Virginia Clatterbuck, Lou Ada Brown, and Mary Elizabeth Dodson.

The family will receive friends Thursday, June 13, 2013 from 5:00-7:00 PM at The Life Church, 11234 Balls Ford Road with a service at 7:00 PM with Pastor David Baird officiating. A graveside service will be held 11:00 AM Friday, June 14, 2013 at Stonewall Memory Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to: The Life Church in loving memory of Ressie Gay Whorton Utz.

Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefh.com

Tribute Wall

CC

“ We had the privilege of being Sister Ressie's pastor in the 80's at the Marlowe Church. She was always so faithful and a wonderful prayer warrior. I can still see her singing at church and will never forget her love and zeal for the Lord. Not a question that I meet this great lady of God again in heaven. What a life she lived as a complete legacy to many and her family for all to follow. Our prayers as this great saint of God has gone on before us and leaves many memories, memories that will not be forgotten. Didn't get to say goodbye to her down here, but, will meet her again up there!

COLLEEN and COLEMAN CLARK - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

MH

“ Grandma Utz was a very special lady who touched everyone she met. I am so blessed she came into my life many years ago when her grandchildren served as Pastors and Youth Pastors here at my church. She has left a lasting legacy that will continue on until we meet her again! Love and hugs to the whole family!

Matt & Teresa Haustein - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

RT

“ I was a young Soldier at Vint Hill Farms Station many years ago, I attended Centerville A/G Church; Sister Utz was like a MOTHER to me. And her family quickly became my family. She was a tremendous inspiration to me, she encouraged me to go to many places to worship the Lord, Revivals, Camp Meetings, Prayer Meetings and Rallies, wherever there was a place to fellowship and worship the Lord that is where Sis Utz wanted to be.

She prayed for me when I lost my Dad, and Mom, I found "Mama Utz" to be a real prayer worrier. Regardless of how big or small the need She was the first one to say let's pray about this. She was inspirational, encouraging, she always lead by example. Sis Utz was deeply compassionate.

My words are inadequate to express how very deeply she has impacted my life from the first day that I met her unto this day; she will continue to leave her mark by her own testimony, and thru the tremendous influence that she has on her family, she truly led by example. Her life here on this old earth is much more than a memory; she has touched many lives, simply by the way that she lived.

I will never forget how she encouraged me by saying "Brother Bob jump in with both feet". Bob Tucker.

Robert (Bob) Tucker - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

CW

“ A faithful follower of Jesus has gone to her final reward. Sis. Utz was very special to our family and to our sons Jimmy and Tommy. She was a great encouragement to the boys during the death of their grandfather, she had said she would never fly but she flew to Florida with Tommy to attend the funeral of his grandfather. We had the privilege many times of hearing her pray and I have heard many many prayers but she knew how to make a connection with God. We know she is in a better place.

Prayer and best wishes to the family.

Doris and Carl Winstead

C,R, & Doris Winstead - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

LK

“ Sister Utz was one of the sweetest people I've known, and a great prayer warrior....putting most of us to shame. I enjoyed sitting with her many times during Family Camp at Potomac Park Camp, or sitting on her porch with her. I loved her cottage; I always called it the "doll house." My favorite memory with her is in her tiny kitchen, showing me how to make her famous cinnamon buns. I took meticulous notes. Tried making them by myself once, but they were not as good as hers. I guess if I make them as many times as she did, they might be as good as hers. I will greatly miss her. My prayers are with the family.

Linda Kelly - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

CW

“ A faithful follower of Jesus has gone to her final reward. Sis. Utz was very special to our family and to our sons Jimmy and Tommy. She was a great encouragement to the boys during the death of their grandfather. She had said she would never fly but she flew to Florida with Tommy to attend the funeral of his grandfather. We had the privilege many times of hearing her pray. I have heard many many prayers but she knew how to make a connection with God with her prayers. We know she is in a better place.

Prayer and best wishes to the family.

Doris and Carl Winstead

Carl Winstead - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

WM

“ Sister Utz was a very special lady. She was more like my Mom, Anna McGlothlin, than most anyone. They both loved to go to church, loved to pray and loved to attend Potomac Park Campground services. I realized from the obit they were both born in the same year. Saints as these will be sorely missed. May her family find comfort in all the wonderful memories.

Wayne McGlothlin - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

RV

“ I shall always miss the fun times we shared talking and laughing when I saw you at Glenna's. Thanks for the wonderful memories, Ressie. I shall think of you often. You are not in the past but in the future and we shall meet again. Love always...

Ray + Mary Jane Furman & Vergie - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

SP

“ I have never been so happy for someone's passing as I am for Sis. Utz because I know she has longed for the day to be with her Saviour and now she is. To think of her rejoicing and seeing Jesus and Heaven makes we yearn to be there with her. I lived on the camp grounds for many years as my father use to be the caretaker there (Johnny Pasternak). She use to make me and many others her delicious cinammon buns and she would share her testimony and love of God with me. One year I took her a little Christmas tree that I had bought at CVS and I decorated it with miniature ornaments because I knew she did not have a tree. She was so appreciative of that little tree. What a wonderful woman. She never criticized people or judged you. Ressie probably has one of the biggest mansions in Heaven and I know she is thrilled beyond compare. I'll see you in Heaven Sis. Utz.

With Fondest Memories:

Stephen E. Pasternak

Stephen Pasternak - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM

PF

“ Sis. Utz & Georgia Campbell are up there singing. She was a prayer warrior. May God be with the family at this special time.

Patsy Campbell Foltz - August 30, 2013 at 01:46 PM