



Vera Harloff Thomson

April 11, 1938 - April 1, 2020

Vera Harloff Thomson, 81 of Gainesville, VA, passed away on April 1 at Novant Health Medical Center in Haymarket, VA. She died from complications of pneumonia.

Vera was a loving Wife, Mom and 'Omi,' born on April 11, 1938, in Hamburg, Germany. At age 18 she was the first in her family to come to America, and she then worked to sponsor other family members as they moved to this country.

On May 10, 1965, Vera married the love of her life, Wayne Thomson, in Omaha, NE. After residing in Nebraska during their first years of marriage, they moved to northern Virginia where they raised their family and then retired.

With a heart for people and an understanding of medicine, she volunteered at area hospitals, and then worked for 19 years as an Admitting Specialist at Fairfax Hospital.

Vera was a loving wife, a devoted mother, and a treasured 'Omi' to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So often with a big smile, she was gracious, intelligent and resilient. She had a big heart, wonderful stories, and her kindness brought many friendships. Vera was classy, fun and funny. Fiercely loyal, she had great strength and determination. She cherished her German heritage, her family, and animals of all kinds – especially her dogs and granddogs. In addition, she was a supporter of multiple animal shelters and rescue groups.

Vera's faith mattered deeply to her, and she considered the people of River of Grace Lutheran Church in Manassas, Virginia, to be family.

She is preceded in death by her parents; three siblings: Alex, Monica, and Bernhardt; and many dear friends.

Survivors include her husband, Wayne; her children, Steve Nahas of Clifton VA, and Connie Thomson of Manassas, VA; five granddaughters and two great granddaughters; sister-in-law Iris of Vienna, VA; niece Mona (Rainer) Kissel of Martinsburg, WV, and other dear relatives.

A private visitation will be held with her immediate family, and a memorial service will be held to celebrate her life in the months ahead.

Memorial contributions may be made to the River of Grace Elevator Fund, at 15012 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112, or given online at www.rognova.com/donate.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ As a young girl, I saw my Aunt Vera as a beautiful, elegant, and even exotic woman with her German accent! As a grown woman, I saw that her spirit was beautiful as well. Aunt Vera demonstrated a genuinely loving nature, seemed truly interested when she inquired about me and my family, and always had a kind word to say. I loved her laugh as well. Being around Aunt Vera was a delight. She exuded warmth and happiness and I know brought happiness into the lives of many four-legged creatures as well as the people she touched. I regret not having spent more time with her as an adult. She undoubtedly will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Rest in peace, dear Aunt Vera.

Melanie A Constantinides - November 11, 2020 at 01:30 PM

“ My aunt Vera and I shared a bond for almost 6 decades. She immigrated to the United States before I was born. The next family members to immigrate were my Oma and my Aunt Moni. When I was three years old, my parents and I were sponsored by our family to immigrate to the US. My aunt Vera taught me to swim, and took me all over the place with her, including on some of her dates. I will always remember her beauty and style, and her elegance. I will always remember her smile and quick laughter, and her graciousness.

Aunt Vera, Uncle Wayne and my two cousins moved from Omaha to Virginia before I was a teenager. I saw them all again when I was 17 years old during a visit to their home in Virginia. Within six months, my parents and I moved to Virginia. Two years later my aunt and uncle offered to host our wedding in their beautiful home. A small group of about thirty close friends and family members celebrated with German food and a German band, until late into the night. We've thanked Wayne and Vera many times since then, as it's the nicest wedding we've attended!

Four months after our wedding, Rainer and I moved to Germany for five years. Aunt Vera visited us in Germany during those years. She left our town to visit a friend for a couple of days. We planned to meet up by train a few days later, so that the two of us could visit her brother / my uncle and his family, in Hamburg. As the train approached the city where we would meet, I asked the people in my train compartment to save a seat for my aunt visiting from America, and I went out to wave to her so she could find me in my train car. The people in my train compartment were very surprised to see this tall, elegant, beautiful lady, in her early 40's, walk into the train compartment with me, as they had expected an elderly aunt who needed help! We laughed a lot about that during the rest of the train trip, and for many more years, and I think that was when I first began to call her "my beautiful aunt". No, she was not the old aunt from America, that the other travelers expected - she was my beautiful aunt!

I will sorely miss visiting with her in person during family activities. I will miss our long phone conversations about every topic under the sun. I will miss her hugs, smiles, laughter, advice, encouragement, and her love.

Rest In Peace, my Beautiful Aunt.

Mona Harloff Kissel

Mona Kissel - April 18, 2020 at 03:15 PM

VT

“ *Vera: Your love for life and your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, are a beacon to guide all of us as we carry on without you. Life will not be the same without you, but your love will light the way to carry us forward.*

Vickie Taylor

Vickie Taylor - April 16, 2020 at 10:17 AM

JS

“ *Vera was so kind....I remember being very upset one evening and she called....we talked for awhile and her words of encouragement wrapped me in comfort. We met through her daughter, Connie...through our love for the animals. Connie has the same loving, compassionate heart as her mother. Vera will be greatly missed but I know she will live on in all the hearts she touched.*

Jan Smith - April 16, 2020 at 03:32 AM

MC

“ My earliest memories of Vera were visiting her home as a child, my most recent memories were of her sitting by my mother’s bedside as she lay dying in the hospital. She was an ardent advocate for my Mom in her last days, and not long after she passed she gave my Dad a beautiful wind chime with my mother’s picture on it. A picture that she had brought to the hospital and that captured my Mom so perfectly we used it in her obituary. Vera has been an always in my life - a constant source of strength and joy and just being. She is one of the rare people for me who was always there, always loving, always with a smile. Vera, I will think of you always and forever be grateful that you were a part of my life. I love you.

Meghan Cioletti - April 16, 2020 at 12:16 AM

PB

“ The more beautiful and full of memories
the harder it is to separate.
But gratitude turns the agony of memory into a silent joy.
You don’t wear the past beauty like a sting,
but like a precious gift in itself.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

In silent mourning
Peter Below - Germany

Peter Below - April 13, 2020 at 07:01 AM

KA

“ Vera was a very special next door neighbor
for many years. We always enjoyed spending
time with her. How she loved her dogs and
Wayne! She will be missed. Rest in Peace!
Karen and Bob Avery



Karen Avery - April 11, 2020 at 04:42 PM

DP

“ Vera and I loved to sit together during "Holy Grounds" at River of Grace. I loved her stories of her childhood in Germany. My favorite story was about the day she saw Jesus, walking in the sky , when she was walking home . Vera talked about the yearning she felt in her soul to know Jesus even as a small child, in Germany. In my mind, I can only imagine the delight on her face as she finally got to feel the. Lord wrap his arms around her, and hear the words "Well done , my good and faithful servant. " Vera truly was a child of God. I had the honor of serving her communion , with Connie , the last Sunday our church was open. I will treasure my dear, sweet memories of my dear, sweet , Vera forever.
Until we meet again, dear friend..... Love, Dianne

Dianne Peyton - April 11, 2020 at 09:19 AM

DP

“ Dianne Peyton lit a candle in memory of Vera Harloff Thomson



Dianne Peyton - April 11, 2020 at 08:42 AM

DF

“ Vera, Vera,
How favored I am to know you!!! It is like God has given me a double portion of grace by having you as my friend!! You have shown me how to be a kitchen Betty at ROG and we sure know how to giggle together when we have choir practice or chatting on the phone about this or that. You and Wayne and Connie are so generous and kind, sort of like you took me under your wing. I know how to have courage, strength and grace by watching your example. I know we all just Love to see how much you Love the doggies and have them blessed at ROG each year; and the bonfires sure are fun together.

*Thank you for sharing times and family with me. Take good care
Vera, Ciao Bella,
Love You, Flo*

Donna Florio - April 10, 2020 at 04:37 PM

LN

“ *Sending Prayers and Thoughts to you, Pastor
Connie and your family at this difficult time.
Take Care
John and Lyn Nore
New Joy Lutheran, Westfield, IN*



Lynelle M Nore - April 09, 2020 at 04:12 PM

KA

“ *My deepest condolences to The family.. loved having fellowship with
Vera at River of Grace, we sat and spoke of her childhood and
shared Jewish stories. Rest In Peace sweet kind lady. Love Karen
Schwartz*

Karen - April 09, 2020 at 03:15 PM

LM

I am honored to have known and lived Vera. She was a very special lady. I will always remember our discussions, her life experiences and accomplishments that she shared. She will always remain in my heart. I will always be with her as well because she took a piece of my heart to heaven with her ❤️

With much love Lynn Meadows

Lynn Meadows - May 09, 2020 at 02:04 PM