



## Virginia Baker Sanford

August 24, 1919 - August 7, 2020

Virginia Baker Sanford died from natural causes a few weeks shy of 101 years young on August 7, 2020 while under hospice care at her daughter's home in Manassas, Virginia, surrounded by family members.

Virginia Roberta Baker was born on August 24, 1919 in Alexandria, Virginia to her parents Roberta Ann Mitchell and George Thomas Baker. She grew up in that city, graduating from George Washington High School in 1937. Virginia ("Ginny") married H. Walker Sanford on June 20, 1943 in Cheyenne, Wyoming where Walker was undergoing training for flying transport planes in the Pacific theatre during World War II.

As a loving mother and devoted wife, Virginia first managed a household in California during the war. Afterwards, she and Walker were among the first Americans stationed in Japan. With a growing family and changing U.S. Air Force duties for her husband, Virginia raised her family in Virginia, Hawaii, West Virginia, and again in Northern Virginia (Fairfax County). She and Walker spent the latter years of their retirement in Gordonsville, Virginia. She had been a resident of the Westminster-Lake Ridge retirement community in Prince William County since 2009.

Her impressive life exuded strength, spirit, humor and kindness to all. Virginia retained an impressive memory throughout her adult life, which informed

many of her personal and family stories. She treasured time with her family especially over the 40 plus years of vacations on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. She was an avid bridge player and reader. Her husband taught her how to play gin rummy when they were first married and they played it throughout their 68 years of marriage. She loved fashion and shopping especially for shoes! She enjoyed plays and movies. Her sweet smile and loving nature will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Preceding Virginia in death were her parents, Roberta Baker Cheseldine and George Baker; her loving husband, Walker Sanford (in 2011); and, son-in-law, Mark Woodruff.

She is survived by their four children, Sandra Roberta Babylon (Chet), Mary Ellen Anderson (Ron); Douglas Walker Sanford (Judy), and, Carol Leslie Woodruff. Additional surviving family members include grandchildren Tracy Carol Babylon, Kerry Ann Babylon, and Sarah Dickinson Sanford; and, great grandchildren Eric Eckley (Caryn Seward-Eckley) and Linda Eckley Cowan (Nick).

Upon cremation, Virginia will join her husband Walker in the Graham Cemetery in Orange, Virginia. For those seeking to make a donation in Virginia's memory, the family suggests the Orange County Humane Society, the Alzheimer's Association, Vitas Healthcare in Manassas (Hospice), or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## **Graham Cemetery**

14191 Constitution Highway  
Orange, VA 22960

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ To the entire Sanford family, we are deeply saddened over your loss and pray for your continued strength during these times. Mrs. Sanford was such a strong and vibrant women who loved her family with a passion. I know many will miss her presence, but know that she may not be here physically, she endures spiritually and will live in the house of our Lord forever. Someday we will see her again and rejoice in her presence.  
Again, we are sorry for your loss. Beth and Steve Burmeister

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**Steven G. Burmeister** - August 23, 2020 at 09:44 PM

LC

“ Dear family, my name is Linda Cadle and I met Ginny's daughter Carol in 1975 at College. She will be a best friend til the end of time.

*Ginny was a beautiful and amazing! She shared her endless positivity with Carol and she never lost the sparkle in her eye and zest for life. I know she was loved and will be missed dearly. Oh, and that memory of hers! She continued to send a Christmas card every year and remark on my children. Such an endearing, lovely person.*

*Next week I will make my annual trip to the Outer Banks, I plan to walk along the beach and think of Ginny and how she so loved the family trip to the beach. I am reminded that Jesus must have also loved the beach. Several stories in the Bible reflect on Him walking along the sea, for example at Galilee. After HE was resurrected, He was found standing on the beach....his love for us is as deep as the ocean! Surely we will all be reunited one day. I continue to believe and pray for strength and courage during these difficult times.*

*A poem in tribute to Mom:*

*"There's magic in a Mother's touch and sunshine in her smile.  
There's love in everything she does to make our lives worthwhile.  
We can find both hope and courage just by looking in her eyes.  
Her laughter is a source of joy, her words are warm and wise.  
There is a kindness and compassion to be found in her embrace  
and  
we see the light of heaven shining in our Mother's face."*

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**linda cadle** - August 18, 2020 at 09:20 PM