



Bess Modlin Payne

April 25, 2018

Bess Modlin Payne, age 97, passed away peacefully on April 25, 2018. She was a native of Boykins, Virginia, a former member of Park View Baptist Church, and a retired bookkeeper of Belk Department Store in Forest City, North Carolina.

Bess was the widow of the late James D. Payne. She is survived by her two sons, Pat Payne and wife Kathy and Paul Payne; two granddaughters Megan Everett and husband Lewis and Sarah Prisock and husband Evan; a great-granddaughter Logan Everett and a great-grandson Sawyer Everett.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice 150 Burnetts Way #220 Suffolk, VA 23434 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place Memphis, TN 38105.

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon Tuesday in Loving Funeral Home with Reverend Aaron Brittian officiating. The family will receive friends in the funeral home one hour prior to the service. Burial at Beachwood Cemetery in Boykins, Virginia will be private.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *When I was a first grader, Mrs. Payne was Park View Elementary School cafeteria supervisor. My first days of schooling were enhanced by her presence behind the counter as I slid my tray along.*

Paul Payne was one of my very first friends (in Sunday School even before I started elementary school) and I recall being astounded that the really nice cafeteria lady dressed in white was Paul's mother!

I have embraced education throughout my life (rebellious Freshman Year excluded) due, to some extent, to my very positive experience with Mrs. Payne.

Having known her for so long my one-word description of Bess Payne is RESILIENT.

She has maintained herself and her extended family well through the tumults associated with relocations, neighborhoods, employment and learning requirements, a world war and others, and so much more - with not a single hair out of place. Seriously.

Love, Jamie

Jamie Sadler - May 03, 2018 at 08:17 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Bess Modlin Payne.*



May 01, 2018 at 02:10 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Bess Modlin Payne.*



April 30, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bess Modlin Payne.*



April 30, 2018 at 09:55 AM

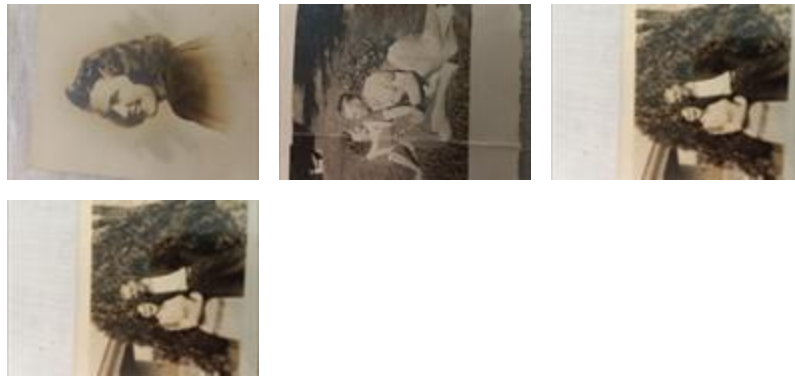
“ I don't remember a time in my life when my Aunt Bess and Uncle Dalton were not in my life. I was so impressed how much they loved each other and always wanted a relationship like theirs. Bess was the best cook in the world and her rolls were outstanding. She gave me the recipe but I could never get them to do well, One day she had me watch her make them and I took notes but I still never got them to turn out anywhere as wonderful as hers. When I got married she showed me how she managed their finances and how she had envelopes for different things. Bess kept a meticulous house as well as being a wonderful cook and made it look easy. She was organized and efficient in every way. She was always impeccably dressed and had her hair and make up to a T. She even looked good doing housework. She didn't like to have her picture taken, why I don't know because she was always pretty. She was a loving and caring mother and was always looking out for her boys. She was so happy when they were together under the same roof again when Paul visited, as she put it to me one day. I admired her being in charge of the cafeteria at a local elementary school and people told me the food was delicious and she treated the children and teachers so nice. When we got married, she helped with the decorating and refreshments, which was a big help as I was still in nurses training. She picked out our first stainless steel flatware as a wedding gift which I still have to this day. She attended my bridal showers and was a big support. I remember when I came back to Virginia, when W.R. had to go on active duty for Army Reserves for 6 mths. I worked at Portsmouth General Hospital as an R.N. and Bess was the switch board operator. We had been in Maryland for 5 yrs. It was always good to hear her voice when I needed someone paged. As a family we went to North Carolina to visit Bess and Dalton and they showed us around and were so loving. Bess even made rolls for me. I remember she was working at Belk as an accountant and had gone to school to learn how to be an accountant. I admired her for this, especially with them being retired. At the time, I wasn't working and she advised me to at least go part time so I could collect Social Security later. I took her advice and she was right when she said every little bit helps. My Aunt Bess

actually named me. For some reason my Mother and Daddy didn't have a name picked out. Bess gave me my name which is Linda Shannon Martin. I have always loved my name and glad she chose it. I wish I had asked her why she chose that name but never thought to ask her when we were together My Mother told me that when I was born, there was a famous movie star named Linda Darnell and she thought Bess could have chosen Linda from her but Shannon wasn't in her name I guess I will never know. For all of my birthdays I received a special birthday card from Bess until she was no longer able. Bess loved God and was active in her church. In closing, my Aunt Bess influenced my life in many positive ways. I was truly blessed to have her in my life. I know she is in heaven now with her beloved Dalton.

Linda Shannon Martin Bryant - April 29, 2018 at 08:34 PM

MB

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Marsha Martin Braswell - April 29, 2018 at 10:07 AM

MB

Memories of My aunt Bess. I remember that my aunt Bess really loved my uncle who was my mother's brother. I remember my aunt Bess loved her two sons Pat and Paul. I also remember that my aunt Bess was a great cook. She made the best rolls and French silk pie . When I was in elementary school, she was the cafeteria manager at Parkview Elementary School in Portsmouth where her sons, Pat and Paul and myself attended School. All of the children loved her because was such a good cook. We had the best food in elementary School. The teachers and the principal's and everyone that work there loved her. I also remember that my aunt and my mama took a typing class at night. After my aunt took the typing class she got a job as a switchboard operator for Portsmouth General Hospital. My aunt Bess did not like to get her picture taken. I do not understand why because she was very pretty.

Marsha Martin Braswell - April 29, 2018 at 10:18 AM

DH

“ *I remember Ms. Bess so fondly, having known her from my teen years. Last July (2017) I was visiting my Mother at Churchland House along with my sister and cousins from SC and we went to see Ms. Bess. She was in lively, good spirits, which was unbelievable for a person of her age, and she was so thrilled that we came to visit. Conversation turned to my family and Ms. Bess said she had wanted to go and visit my Mother but had not yet had the opportunity. I thanked her but discouraged the visit because Mom's dementia had progressed to the point that she hardly could remember anyone. Then conversation turned to my Father. I will never forget what she said. "David Huff was a GOOD man, a GOOD man." Pat was there to visit his Mother, and it was so good to see him.*

I give thanks for the life of Ms. Bess, for the special relationship our families have shared and for the special bond of friendship that Pat and Kathy, Paul and Marsha and I have shared throughout the years. My heartfelt sympathy goes to all of you, my dear friends, along with my prayers for God's comfort and peace.

Don Huff

Don Huff - April 28, 2018 at 08:46 AM

BG

“ *Billie R. Gregory purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Bess Modlin Payne.*



Billie R. Gregory - April 27, 2018 at 02:35 PM