



Grace Nichols Spence

March 4, 2010

Grace Nichols Spence, 92, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 4, 2010, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was preceded in death by her parents, Patrick Henry Nichols and Grace Avery Nichols, her husband, Millard Walker Spence, and six siblings: Wilbur Lee Nichols, Forest Cooper Nichols, Myra Nichols Tippet, Helene Nichols, Alice Barham Aenchbacher, and Annie Mary Stroud. She is survived by a brother, Robert F. Nichols and wife, Rita, of Portsmouth, four children, M. Walker Spence, Jr. and wife, Delores, of Duck, NC, Roger William Spence and wife, Sandra, of Richmond, Jeannette Spence Hollowell and husband, Raymond, of Chesapeake, Margaret Anne Tripold and husband, David, of Colts Neck, NJ, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A life-long resident of Portsmouth, she was a member of Jackson Memorial Baptist Church for over seventy years and was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star for many years. She attended Woodrow Wilson High School and Mary Washington College before embarking on a long and successful career as a loving wife and wonderful mother. She took great pleasure in the accomplishments of her children, was a steadfast and hardworking volunteer at her church, and was at her best when giving her time and support to others. She touched many in her long life and will always be remembered for her positive attitude and infectious smile.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of Mayfair House, Heartland Hospice, and to Dr. Kevin Wilson and Geraldine Glivens, who went to extraordinary lengths at all hours to care for Grace during the last years of her life. The family will receive friends at Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Avenue, Portsmouth, from 1 to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 8th, funeral services to follow at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens, Suffolk, following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Jackson Memorial Building Fund, 4316 Bruce Road, Chesapeake, 23321, or to the Alzheimer's Association - Southeast Chapter, 6350 Center Drive, Suite 102, Norfolk, 23502.

Tribute Wall



“ Walker and family-I just heard from Betty Jean about your mothers' passing. It's not easy to have your mom go ahead of us, but God gives us strength to keep on going til that day comes when they will greet us in heaven on our arrival. My mom was good friends also with your aunts Helene and Ann Barham. She always spoke fondly of your family. I love you my friend. My best to all your family.##imported-begin##Roselyn Gardner Harrell##imported-end##

March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Grace was indeed a special person, and I retain very warm memories of her. Whether she was serving up her famous iced teamade in that special 'iced tea' pan, or her wonderful chili soup, she always made me feel as if I were part of the family. I had good times in her kitchen, playing dominos and making box pizza with Margaret Ann, and wondering about the lone rutabaga that seemed to always sit on the stove. She and Millard were a great duo, and I feel happy to have shared part of my life with the Spence family.

My warm regards to the entire gang!

Beth Hester##imported-begin##Beth Hester##imported-end##

March 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *What can I say about my beloved grandmother.....she was such a gentle loving soul. Everyone who met her fell in love with her. I especially remember her staying with me as a child and teaching me how to play chinese checkers. I think I love cards and board games so much today because of her. She will be missed by all but I'm so happy to know she is in the lord's hands and in comfort and peace. My love to all the family and friends who loved and knew her so well.##imported-begin##Holly Cambra##imported-end##*

March 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jeanette,
My sister and I wanted to let you know that your mom will be missed. I was always impressed with her radiant smile and laughter. Know that she is no longer in pain and is with her blessed savior. Your mom reminded me of my favorite Aunt Grace who always smiled and had the following poem on her wall.
"The thing that goes the farthest towards making life worthwhile, that costs the least and does the most, is just a pleasant smile. It's full of worth and goodness, to with gentle kindness blent. It's worth a million dollars and it doesn't cost a cent." Keep smiling in honor of your mom. All our regards, Family of Lucille Ketchum, Debbie Nagy and Doree Mason##imported-begin##Debbie Nagy##imported-end##*

March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jeannette & family,
Thank you for sharing Gracie with us and allowing us to care for her. Mayfair will miss her more than you know.
That smile and the glint in her eye made each of us smile. Even though she couldn't talk, she didn't have to. She said more with her eyes and smile than most people say with their lips. We couldn't help but love her.
You and your family were so devoted to her that it was obvious to us that she was a great Mom. "Children learn what they live...."
It has been a total pleasure to have known you and your family, as well as Gracie. I pray that you find comfort knowing she is in heaven & is smiling down on each of us. With Love, Cindy##imported-begin##Cindy Payne##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Walker, Delores, and family....We were so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.##imported-begin##Bobby and Pam Vernon##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. My prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. With my deepest sympathy, Lynda##imported-begin##Lynda Rountree##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ your mother GRACE was a wonderful sister in law and I cherish our many years of fellowship together. She will be greatly missed.

sisters forever.

Isabell###imported-begin###isabell spence###imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We were sorry to learn of your mother's passing. Karen and I offer you our deepest sympathies and condolences.###imported-begin###Bill Smith###imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Walker, Delores, and family, we are sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.
Raymond and Teresa Clark###imported-begin###Raymond Clark###imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Walker, Delores, Jeanette, Roger, Margaret Ann, and family,

We are so sorry for your loss, but what a nice long time you had with her here on earth.

She was a devoted wife and wonderful mother and was so proud of her children and grandchildren.

We visited Mrs. Spence several times while she was at Mayfair House and she always had a wonderful smile on her gentle face.

She is now in her heavenly home with her beloved husband and we should all look forward to seeing them again one day soon.

We will miss her, but her memory is in our heart and we are all very blessed to have known her.

With deepest sympathy.

Brian and Priscilla##imported-begin##Brian & Priscilla Lytton-White##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. I have many fond memories of Aunt Grace, and I know she is happy and in Heaven with Jesus now.

Blessings,

Sandy Gill Roethlisberger##imported-begin##Jack & Sandy Roethlisberger##imported-end##

March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM