



Iva S. Brown

February 7, 2020

Iva S. Brown, 78, passed away on Friday, February 7, 2020. She was born on June 10th in Lynchburg, VA to the late Rev. Richard and Annie Lee Shapland. She was predeceased by her oldest sister, Frances Shapland Odell.

Iva is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert I. "Bob" Brown; sons Eric (Katrina) and Ryan "Bird" (Melissa), daughter Courtney (Amy); grandson, Ethan Michael Brown and granddaughters, Virginia Lee Brown, Ryan Ashley Brown and Caroline Shapland Brown; sister Ann Shapland Stephens and a large extended family.

Iva grew up as a daughter of a Methodist minister. Given the nature of his professional calling, the family moved frequently throughout all parts of Virginia. She graduated from Spotsylvania High School in 1959. She went on to graduate from Emory and Henry College with a degree in English and Spanish and later earned a Master's degree in Education from Old Dominion University.

Iva was a committed educator, having worked in Chesapeake Public Schools for 34 years as an English and Spanish teacher. She started in 1963 at Deep Creek High School, and went on to spend the majority of her career at Oscar F. Smith High School. She sought to improve education in Chesapeake through active leadership and involvement in CEA, VEA and NEA.

When Iva was not educating students in the classroom, she could often be found tutoring and imparting solicited and unsolicited advice and wisdom to all ages. She loved gathering around a table, she encouraged conversation, she encouraged thinking for yourself, she enjoyed political banter and throughout she demanded everyone to be respectful and maintain a sense a humor. Her laugh was infectious, her "mom look" terrifying and her hugs just right.

Iva absolutely loved time with family. She was a tough loving mother and grandmother, affectionately known, amongst other things as, "Big Iva", "Grammy", "Mimi". Iva never bypassed an opportunity to spend time with her admiring grandchildren, neighbors and extended family. Her door was always open.

Unfortunately, in 2006, she was first diagnosed with breast cancer and since 2013 had been in some form of treatment, having said that you would not have known. The tough love and hard-nosed approach she had as a teacher and mother, she approached cancer with an even greater level of vigor. In spite of the many challenges cancer presented to her, she never allowed cancer to affect her disposition, her willingness to help others and her spirit.

To celebrate Iva's life, the family will be hosting a visitation on Friday, February 14th from 6:30-7:30 pm and a service on Saturday, February 15th at 2:00 pm at Loving Funeral Home, located at 3225 Academy Ave, Portsmouth, VA 23703. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her name to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Cemetery Details

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery

5310 Milners Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 484-3373

Celebration of Life

FEB 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 484-3373

Tribute Wall



“ Iva and I graduated from SpotsylvaniaHS together. I remember just as the others have stated, kind and generous with sense of humor.

Nancy Sullivan Canale - May 31, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ The Smithfield Labeling Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Iva S. Brown.



The Smithfield Labeling Team - February 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Iva S. Brown.



February 11, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Iva S. Brown.



February 11, 2020 at 08:43 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Iva S. Brown.*



February 11, 2020 at 08:20 AM



Kim
Aston

“ *Big Iva was definitely one of a kind. I was blessed to coach Courtney in high school, and during that time I became close with the entire family. Big Iva always ruled the room, no matter the company or conversation. She was smart, sarcastic and funny, all at the same time. She raised 3 great kids, and 1 great husband:-) Her grandchildren meant the world to her, starting with her buddy, Ethan.*

I'm glad that she didn't suffer too bad after her last diagnosis, however I'm still mad that another great one is gone. Much love to the entire Brown family! I love all of you, as does your four legged house guest, Booger.

Kim Aston - February 10, 2020 at 10:13 PM

DT

“ *Big Iva was an icon!...a woman of tremendous drive and a mastery of the English language (specifically the very worlds she chose with each comment). A teacher in so many ways. She was the mother of an extremely good friend of ours, and you know what they say about “apples falling close to their trees”. So I know well the caliber of her being and her mind because I see it in her children and grandchildren. A beautiful woman and person left us and found another place to shine. Peace to Big Iva and (in time) happiness to those who looked up to her. Rest assured, her impact will be felt tomorrow, and next week and for years and years ahead. -DT*

DT - February 10, 2020 at 09:54 PM

AG

“ *Someone wrote a beautiful tribute/obituary of Iva. It made me smile thinking of her and all the spunk she added to the world.* ❤️

Alice Glasco - February 10, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Iva S. Brown.*



February 10, 2020 at 03:19 PM

MD

“ *Iva was indomitable. Her spirit, drive and commitment to the rights of every individual were an inspiration and made her a force of good. I have admired her since the day I met her. The world is a less interesting place without her. She will be missed.*
Michelle Degnan

Michelle Degnan - February 09, 2020 at 04:13 PM

AG

Michelle, you said it better than I ever could. She will be missed!

Alice Glasco - February 10, 2020 at 09:08 PM

BG

A woman admired by me and fellow teachers who would speak up for what's right. Bob Glisson

Bob Glisson - February 12, 2020 at 05:39 PM

PP

An inspirational leader - always looking out for those in need - she leaves a legacy!

Patricia Powers - February 14, 2020 at 07:12 AM