



# Margaret Thorbjornsen

April 17, 2024

Margaret Faith James Thorbjornsen passed away on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at Kings Grant Retirement Community where she had lived in Martinsville, Virginia for the last ten years. Margaret was born in Louisville, Kentucky to Louis and Bertha Sears James, she and older brother Sammy spent her childhood on the family dairy farm in Somerset, Kentucky, before moving to Culpeper, Virginia. She was a graduate of Culpeper High School and spent two years at Madison College before going to Norfolk General Hospital to pursue a career in medical technology. There she met the love of her life, Harry Martin Thorbjornsen, whom she married on June 16, 1956. She soon welcomed daughters Joy Ann and Mary Beth. Margaret worked for several doctors over the next forty-five years in Norfolk and Chesapeake, Virginia before retiring. She especially enjoyed spending time with her only grandson, Jordan as well as cooking, reading, gardening, and studying genealogy.

Margaret is survived by her daughter Joy Nance and husband Keith, loving grandson Jordan Nance, all of Reidsville, North Carolina, sister-in-law Judy James, nephew Mark James and wife Robin all of Culpeper, Virginia, as well as numerous extended family and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Harry, her daughter Mary Thorbjornsen Jennings, and her brother Samuel James.

She was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Martinsville, Virginia. She was a former member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk and Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake.

Margaret was known for her kindness, gentleness, and fortitude. Her abiding faith sustained her throughout her life.

A graveside service will be at 2:00 pm Sunday, April 21, 2024, in Forest Lawn Cemetery. A time for celebrating Margaret and her life will be held at Kings Grant Retirement Community at a later date. Please consider memorial contributions to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, PO Box 325, Dobson, North Carolina 27017.



# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn

8100 Granby Street  
Norfolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

APR 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Forest Lawn  
8100 Granby Street  
Norfolk, VA

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Memories of Margaret and Harry from Aldersgate UMC...Quiet, gentle sole..always smiling...always enjoy the tenor voice of Harry in the choir.. Comfort and Christian love to the family...  
Betty Hayslett Whitener  
Richmond VA*

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**Betty Whitener** - May 02, 2024 at 05:36 PM

MG

“ *Such a beautiful lady with a heart of gold. It was a Blessing to have known her and she loved sharing such wonderful memories and photos.  
My condolences to the family. She will truly be missed.  
Mary George*

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**Mary George** - April 29, 2024 at 09:43 AM

VB

“ *I worked with Margaret as a young nurse in the office practice of DRS HODGES FAULKNER AND HODGE She was the best and sweetest to this young nurse. I have always remembered her kindness Virginia Bogue. I was Virginia Powell when I worked with Margaret. My most sincere condolences to your family*

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**Virginia Bogue** - April 21, 2024 at 07:18 AM

AS

“ *It was an honor to get to know Mrs. Thorbjornsen as well as her late husband. They were both kind and compassionate people and always there to share a smile. Margaret will be missed by many but I am able to find peace that she is once again with her Harry.*

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**Amy Seidle** - April 19, 2024 at 01:39 PM