



## Mary Virginia Carlisle

July 25, 2009

Miss Mary Virginia Carlisle passed away peacefully on July 25, 2009, just a few months shy of her 100th birthday, at Bon Secours Nursing Center, Suffolk VA, where she had resided the past few years. Miss Carlisle was born October, 10, 1909 in Portsmouth, Virginia, and was a life-long resident of West Park View in Portsmouth. She was a member since childhood of Park View Methodist Church, and enjoyed attending and visiting other churches as well. She eagerly attended church services at Bon Secours until the last week of her life.

Aunt Virginia had a very long and a very good life, as she often told her family and friends. She graduated from high school at age 15, worked for several years to save money, and then attended Radford College. She worked for several lawyers in Portsmouth before beginning work at Greenbrier Farms Nursery in Chesapeake as office manager, a position from which she retired many years ago.

Virginia was an avid traveler and greatly enjoyed visiting all fifty states and several other countries, often striking out on her own, driving cross-country as a young woman. Her nieces and nephews were the happy recipients of exotic gifts she brought to us from her travels. She had a hearty sense of humor, an irrepressible spirit, and made new friends every day of her long and full life. She often said she thought the reason she had lived so long was so she could

try to help other people. She was a voracious reader and loved to write poetry.

Miss Carlisle is survived by her sisters, Adelaide Downing Carlisle White and her husband, Vernon, who live in Province Place in Portsmouth, and Eleanor Christie Carlisle Penny, who lives in El Cajon, CA, these twins being the remaining siblings of the ten children of Mary Cotton Downing Carlisle and Arthur Walter Carlisle. She is also survived by her nephew, Thomas Arthur White of Portsmouth, 7 nieces Carolyn Creekmore and Linda Carlisle both of Portsmouth, Marion Perrine, Sharon Penny Palmore and Lisa McCleary all of San Diego, CA, Christie Carlisle Sohlstrom of Portland, OR and Bette Carlisle of Los Angeles, CA. She has many, many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews, all of whom she cherished. She was a fun-loving and generous soul and we will miss her. One of our favorite stories of Aunt Virginia is about the time a new co-worker admired her blouse, so Virginia changed into a jacket in the restroom and came out and gave the blouse to her friend. She showed us many things she had learned about living a good life.

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the wonderful staff at Bon Secours Nursing Center and to the volunteers from Bon Secours Hospice for the loving care and comfort they provided our sister and aunt, most especially Chaplain Charles Leavitt and Reverend Ervin Johnson, who were her faithful companions, A private family service will be held at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens. Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel is handling the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ Aunt Virginia will always have her special place in my heart. All children need to grow up with an Aunt Virginia in their lives. That special person who doesn't have the task of raising a child, but just loving her and making her feel that she is a gift from God. Aunt Virginia did that for me and the world won't be the same without her but she has a whole body again and for that I am grateful. Aunt Virginia, you are with the angels now!!##imported-begin##Marion Perrine##imported-end##

---

August 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always be grateful to Cousin Virginia, for her loving and generous spirit. She was the one who first shared with us, back in the '50's, what she had gleaned of our mutual Downing family history, launching several of us into a lifelong search of our family roots. Her influence on her family will continue to bring joy in many areas of life. May Virginia rest in the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.##imported-begin##Cousin Patti Schacht##imported-end##

---

July 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ When I was little I used to love visiting Aunt Virginia and Uncle Bingham. Aunt Virginia used to give me vanilla ice cream in a bowl and let me eat it on a TV tray in the living room like a "big girl". I think that's why vanilla is my favorite flavor today. They spoiled me rotten when I was around them. I still have a note Uncle Bingham made for me that was on a box of candy when I was little. It said "Sweets for my sweet". I will miss Aunt Virginia I know she is in heaven with her brothers who went before her smiling down upon us and loving her new perfect form. Thanks for the ice cream.##imported-begin##Amber Edmondson##imported-end##

---

July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Virginia in the early 1970's when I married my ex husband who worked at Greenbrier Farms. She was like part of my family for many years. We had many lunches out and loved to go to Antique and flea markets. My kids who are grown now, always received small gifts on their B-days from Virginia. She liked to shop through catalogues She would play a game where the kids had to find them. She was a kid at heart. I think Virginia lived such a good long life because of her unselfish caring ways and enjoying everyday on this earth. She taught me alot about life. Thanks for letting me be part of your life.##imported-begin##Debra Baucom Thrasher Watson##imported-end##

---

July 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM