



## Mildred Ballentine Sorrell

March 15, 1920 - February 20, 2005

Mildred, "Snookie," Ballentine Sorrell, a lifetime resident of Portsmouth, died on Sunday, February 20th at Maryview Nursing Care Center in Suffolk. Born on March 15, 1920, Mrs. Sorrell lived in Prentice Park and Glenshella where she raised her two sons.

Born to William Thomas Ballentine and Sarah Nee Ballentine, she was the youngest daughter in a family of ten. One of her sisters, the late Ellen S. Ballentine, served the City of Portsmouth for a record tenure of 51 years as, among other duties, the Assistant City Auditor. Other siblings who predeceased Mrs. Sorrell include: Kathryn B. Morris; Sadie B. Kennett; Doris B. Mays; Jane B. Eley; William T. Pete Ballentine, Jr.; and Ralph Ballentine.

Mrs. Sorrell attended Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Prentice Park and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1937. After high school graduation, Mrs. Sorrell used her secretarial skills in banking, but she was most proud of her support of the war effort and her tenure on the night shift in the Supply Department of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard during the early 1940s.

Besides raising her two boys, Mrs. Sorrell hosted nieces and nephews and whipped up Saturday morning pancake specials. She lovingly devoted herself to caring for sick family members. Her positive personality was evident most recently at Maryview Nursing Care Center, where her smile, fashion, and

friendliness did not go unnoticed by visitors and staff alike. A serious diabetic for years, Mrs. Sorrell would always get a good laugh when her admirers metaphorically quipped, "She is the sweetest lady I know."

Mrs. Sorrell was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt. Survivors include: two sons and two daughter-in-laws, Lt. Col. ret. Richard H. Sorrell and Sherry Johnson Sorrell of Huntsville, Alabama; Dr. Michael R. Ron Sorrell and Ginny O. Sorrell of Virginia Beach, Virginia; grandchildren, Christine S. Copeland and her husband Robert Copeland of Huntsville, Alabama and Richard David Sorrell and his wife Michelle Sorrell of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Michael R. Sorrell, Jr., currently a second-year student at the University of Virginia; great-grandchildren, Rebecca Copeland, Bobby Copeland, Cody Copeland, Skylar Sorrell, and Landon Sorrell.

Mrs. Sorrell is also survived by a sister, Marguerite B. Cuthriell, and a brother, John S. Ballentine and his wife, Eleanor P. Ballentine, all from Portsmouth, and many other nieces and nephews.

She was a woman of faith. Before her declining health, Mrs. Sorrell, a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, attended and participated regularly. Most recently she was a Sunday worshipper with her friends and Pastor Chuck Leavitt in the chapel at the nursing center. The family wishes to thank the Reverend Dr. Larry Adams and the church family of Aldersgate, especially those involved in the outreach ministry to shut-ins and the elderly, for their years of faithful ministry. Affectionate gratitude is extended to Dr. Terry Yarbrough, Pastor Chuck Leavitt and the superb staff of the Chesapeake Unit of Maryview Nursing Care Center, and the staff of 3-South Unit of Maryview Hospital.

Funeral services will be conducted on February 24th at 11:00AM by the Revs.

Larry Adams and Chuck Leavitt in Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4320 Bruce Road, Chesapeake, VA. Internment will be at Oak Grove Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be Wednesday evening, February 23rd, from 7 to 8 PM at Loving Funeral Home in Portsmouth.

Expressions of sympathy and memorial donations may be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or to Chapel Programs at Maryview Nursing Care Center at 4775 Bridge Road, Suffolk, VA 23435, or to the American Diabetes Association Research foundation, Attn: Margaret Walker, 1701 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

# Tribute Wall



“ We were so very sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Our thoughts are with you at such a sad time.##imported-begin##Linda and Ron Audet##imported-end##

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February 28, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ron and Ginny  
We are sorry for your loss, our prayers are with you and for your family during this time of need. May God continue to bless you and keep you in his care.##imported-begin##Margie and David Hawk##imported-end##

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February 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ron and Ginny,  
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Rest in knowing that she is at peace in the presence of our God. I pray that His promise of eternal life and knowing that you will be with her again someday brings you great comfort. In God's love I know that you find strength. I pray that you find comfort and hope knowing that you are in the prayers of many who care about you.  
In His name,  
Rena##imported-begin##Rena' Anderson##imported-end##

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February 24, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Richard and Ronnie,

*I am sorry to hear of your mother's death. She was a sweet woman who was so fun to be around. I have fond memories of taking her and Sissie on a boat ride when they visited us at Point Harbor. I was 10 years old at the time, and they got a big kick out of it. Her upbeat and funny personality was such a joy to be around, and she will be sorely missed.*

*With love,*

*Christopher Barry##imported-begin##Christopher Barry##imported-end##*

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February 23, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Richard and Ronnie,

*Since we are in Florida I'm sending this note via e-mail and hope that you get it.*

*I'm sorry that Dickie and I could not be there with you and the family to share your grief and relive the happy memories.*

*I will certainly never forget your Mom's smile and great sense of humor. We all know that she was the life of every party she attended including the ones at the nursing home.*

*Your Mom, Sissie, and Duckie were "regulars" with Mother and Daddy on Sunday drives. Their favorite destination was Williamsburg. They had a great time sitting in those rockers on the porch of the lodge and watching people go by.*

*I always looked forward to having my weekly visitors at Mary Washington. The "girls" tagged along with Dad going to the auction on Wednesdays. I enjoyed their visits and lunches at Howard Johnsons.*

*Your mother and Sissie came to our place at Point Harbor and sat on the pier watching the kids water ski. When Christopher was 10 years old he took all the "girls" for a boat ride. They talked about it for years. Of course none of them could swim!*

*One year Sissie and Snookie came with Mom and Dad for Thanksgiving to Pt. Harbor. It was very cold and we all huddled by the wood stove and had a great time. So many laughs...*

*Sissie and Snookie came to most of the special events in my life - graduations, Azalea festivals when the rain shrunk the dresses they laughed for years about that, camp on Long Island, wedding, etc. All these things meant so much to me.*

*I'm sure going to miss your mother as I know you will too. It's sad that we are approaching the end of a wonderful generation.*

*With love and prayers,*

*Carolyn##imported-begin##Personal: Family of Mildred  
Sorrell##imported-end##*

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February 22, 2005 at 12:00 AM