



Thelma Shepard Rivenbark

March 13, 2023

Our dear Mom and Gmommy, Thelma Shepard Rivenbark, 95, peacefully passed away on March 13, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, to Raymond and Melissa Shepard. Gmommy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Carl J. Rivenbark, Sr. and her son, Carl J. Rivenbark, Jr.

Shortly after their marriage, the U.S. Navy brought Thelma and Carl to Norfolk, Virginia. They eventually made Portsmouth their home for over 60 years. During those years, Thelma worked tirelessly to raise and support her family. She was an active member of the PTA for 36 years, room mother, and avid fan of each school activity and sporting event for her three children. Thelma loved to bake, especially cakes and pies. This tradition has been passed down to her daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was also a talented gardener, and the Rivenbark garden produced bushels of fresh vegetables each summer. She taught herself to sew and made most of her children's clothes including their pajamas, robes, Easter outfits, and even their jeans! A successful businesswoman, Thelma was known as "The Avon Lady" for over forty years. A member of the company's President's Club, she earned numerous sales achievement awards. She was extremely proud that this work provided higher education for her children. As a long time member of Alexander Baptist Church, Thelma was a faithful servant of her Lord and her

church family. Along with her husband, Carl, she loved being part of the life of the church and served graciously.

Thelma is survived by her son, Terry Rivenbark and wife Kathy, her daughter Patricia R. Comer and husband Bill, and her daughter-in-law, Georgia Rivenbark. Gmommy was extremely proud of her six grandchildren, David Rivenbark and wife Kayla, Michael Rivenbark and wife Angie, Betsy Rivenbark Beaman and husband Rob, Andy Rivenbark and wife Tyler, Sara Comer and husband Mike Craig, and Will Comer. She adored her great-grandchildren, Zachary, Olivia, Katie Lee, Grace, Virginia, Mary Maxwell and great-great granddaughter, Nora.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023, 2:00 pm at New Creation United Methodist, 4320 Bruce Road, Chesapeake. It will be officiated by Rev. Randy Duncan. The family will receive friends at 1:00 PM prior to the service at the church.

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Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Celebration of Life

MAR 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall

KA

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss...
Mrs Riv and I got to know each other way back when... at Manor High School...she was a strong supporter of the "Mustangs"... I always enjoyed talking with her..... She had a wonderful sense of humor...& she so loved her family...which has obviously grown by leaps & bounds...I am sure that made her extremely happy... Really a great lady...
Love to all,
Kathy Saunders

Kathy - March 20, 2023 at 11:36 PM

MJ

“ *Thelma was a wonderful person. We have so many memories of her and Carl from Alexander Baptist Church. I am so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you. Sorry we were not able to be with you for her service. Love, Steve and Marilyn Jobe*



Marilyn and Steve Jobe - March 20, 2023 at 08:22 PM

DF

“ *DIANE JOHNSON & FAMILY purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of Thelma Shepard Rivenbark.*



DIANE JOHNSON & FAMILY - March 16, 2023 at 06:09 AM

BM

“ *Thelma and Carl were my neighbors during my childhood; Thelma taught me how to ride a two wheel bicycle when I was 7 years old! I have so many good memories of her kindnesses throughout my life. She worked hard all her life. Rest easy, Miss Thelma...you'll be missed but never forgotten.*

Betty Edwards Moreno - March 15, 2023 at 09:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thelma Shepard Rivenbark.*



March 15, 2023 at 06:49 PM