



Vikki Back Garner

August 24, 2007

Victoria B. Garner

On Aug. 24, 2007, Victoria Back "Vikki" Garner, 57, loving wife of Norman Garner of Portsmouth, passed away to our Father in heaven. Predeceased by her mother, Anna Back, Vikki left behind her father, Corliss Back and his wife Lillian of Chester, Va.; her sisters, Kathy Davis and husband Benjamin of Chester and Nancy Martin and husband Roger of Prince George, Va.; brothers, Wayne Back and wife Susan of Chester and Edward Back of Hopewell, Va.; sister-in-law, Carol Garner Rogers and husband Lester of Linden, Ala.; and nieces and nephews, Kim Rogers Dunston, Sean Davis and Jessica Davis Roberts, John and Chris Martin, Crystle, Brandon, Aaron and Ashleigh Back and Cory and Stephanie Back. Vikki graduated from Louise Obici School of Nursing in 1974. She was a special lady whose love of life and dedication to quality military health care touched countless lives in the 31 years she spent working in U.S. Navy medicine. She actively participated with Norman in the Tidewater Division of the National Model Railroad Association and their garden is a vision of beautiful flowers, plants and vegetables. Vikki was a charter member of the Southern Mid-Atlantic chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association as a lieutenant commander in the reserves. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Norfolk. Her smiling face and vibrant personality will be missed. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. today in Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Ave., Portsmouth.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday by the Rev. Dick Baker in Loving Funeral Home. Burial will be in Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens in Suffolk, with Military Honors.

Tribute Wall



“ *Death Is A Door*

*Death is only an old door
Set in a garden wall
On gentle hinges it gives, at dusk
When the thrushes call
Along the lintel are green leaves
Beyond the light lies still;
Very willing and weary feet
Go over that sill
There is nothing to trouble any heart;
Nothing to hurt at all.
Death is only a quiet door.
In an old wall.*

We miss you so much already sis Aunt Vikki and our hearts ache so bad for you. You will never be far from our thoughts. Run through your beautiful garden Smurf and throw petals down to us. We love you forever...##imported-begin##Kathy ,Ben, & Sean Davis and Jessica & Jesse Roberts##imported-end##

September 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ To Norm and family,
I was saddened to hear just today of Vikki's passing. I had retired out of NMCP in February. Throughout my three year tour, Vikki was a special friend and wonderful, wise resource. Always professional and so sharply dressed, and yet always willing to share a laugh. I take great comfort in knowing she is secure in God's kingdom, and look forward to seeing her again someday soon. And I take great pride in having a friend like Vikki. She always spoke highly of you, Norm, and the rest of the family. God bless and strengthen us all until we are all called home.##imported-begin##Chris Ecker##imported-end##

August 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Norman,
I am so very sorry for your loss. I consider Vikki to have been one of my good friends and one of the people I am most grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from in my life. Anytime I came across a funny joke, I would save it and send it to Vikki hoping to brighten her day a little. I will never get the chance to send her the last one I had collected for her. I will miss the ones she would send me. Most of all, I will miss her. God bless you and keep you.##imported-begin##Gail Manos##imported-end##

August 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Norm, please accept our deep sympathy for you and your family. We're just sorry we can't be with you today. Vikki stayed with Juel during her first day of chemotherapy this past Fall. In her usual loving way, she talked us through the day, keeping us as ease and smiling despite our anxieties. We will always have Vikki in our hearts & in our laughter when we remember her voice & laugh. All our love, Peg and Juel##imported-begin##Peg Armstrong/Juel Loughney##imported-end##

August 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *My Condolences to the family:*

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me;*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;*

*But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,*

*And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.*

*But as I turned to walk away,
A tear fell from my eye
For all my life, I'd always thought,
I didn't want to die.*

*I had so much to live for,
So much left yet to do,*

*It almost seemed impossible
That I was leaving you.*

*I thought of all the yesterdays,
The good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had.*

*If I could relive yesterday,
Just even for a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you
And maybe see you smile.*

*But then I fully realized,
That this could never be,
For emptiness and memories,
Would take the place of me.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.*

*author unknown##imported-begin##Glenda B. Arrington##imported-
end##*

August 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Vikki's passing has left a hole in my heart. She was such a dear, precious friend who greatly touched my life and always provided me with sunshine in my darker moments. I will always cherish her memory -- a warm, generous and fun-loving person who had a contagious laugh and who laughed often. I am definitely a happier person having been blessed with Vikki's friendship in my life. Norm, you and Vikki's family will be very much in my prayers. Please take care of yourself and of one another.##imported-begin##Sue Roper##imported-end##

August 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Norm and family, I am at a loss for words... We are so sorry for your loss. You and Ms Vikki are such good people, and have been a huge part of Mom and Skips lives for so long. We will all miss Vikki very much.##imported-begin##Rita Carter & Family##imported-end##

August 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Vikki's passing. I had the pleasure and honor to work with Vikki during my three tours at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth NMCP. She was a "super lady" whose contributions and dedication to NMCP can not be measured. She was the "Queen" of JCAH0 and through her efforts NMCP was always prepared. She displayed so much pride in her work and touched so many. She will be greatly missed! Please pass my deepest sympathy to her family.##imported-begin##Les Moore##imported-end##

August 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Your optimism almost had me convinced you were going to beat it lady. And you wouldn't listen to me, you wouldn't retire, enjoy life! You were where you wanted to be all along, serving patients. They would never know you but you were there for them, making sure all was ready to care for them when they came aboard. Rest now Vikki, it is long overdue. Again though you probably won't listen. You are now our angel, that will help even when we won't know that we need it.##imported-begin##Darline Larson##imported-end##*

August 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ To many of the staff at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Vikki was the enemy. Known to most only as the ?Joint Commission Lady? she was the one who made us wash our hands several dozen times each day, she was the one who made us write legibly in the medical record, she was the one who insisted we keep our training files updated, she was the one who would not let us store our lunches in the medication refrigerator, she was the one who made us mark the site of the intended surgery. In short, the ?Joint Commission Lady? made us do a lot of things we did not think were very important and simply did not want to do.

To the many patients who passed through the doors of the medical center, Vikki was their friend. She was the one who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that all of them received the safe, high quality care so many took for granted. She never got the personal ?thank you? from those patients. Her great moments of satisfaction and pride came when the Joint Commission surveyors would comment after their exhaustive inspections of our healthcare practices, ?This is a great institution! You should be very proud of the work you do here!! I wish I could receive my healthcare at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center!!!?

On further review, the ?Joint Commission Lady? was not our enemy; she was our friend, too. She taught us all a tremendous amount about how to provide safe, quality healthcare to each and every patient, each and every day. When you think about all the staff members who have passed through Portsmouth during Vikki?s 31 years here, she has directly or indirectly influenced thousands of healthcare professionals. And when you think her about positive impact on patients, that number would be in the millions!

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have called Vikki Garner my shipmate, colleague, and friend for the past 20 years. I will miss her greatly. And I know my joyful memories and current sadness are shared by many others from her Portsmouth family. Thank you for sharing her with us.##imported-begin##Ray Bozman##imported-

end##

August 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Norm, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Vikki will certainly be missed.##imported-begin##Patti McCambridge##imported-end##*

August 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM