



## Virginia Byers

April 29, 1925 - April 4, 2021

Heaven reclaimed Virginia Sparks Byers, 95, from the Shelby Wendover Hospice House on April 4, 2021. She was born on April 29, 1925 in Union, South Carolina to the late Joseph Sparks and Pearl Anthony Sparks. Virginia graduated from Union High School, attended Carson-Newman in Tennessee and graduated from Knoxville General Hospital School of Nursing in 1946. She worked as a third-shift RN/Supervisor in labor and delivery and ER at Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby from 1951 until her retirement on January 4, 1982.

Virginia married the late Neil Palmer Byers of Shelby on March 22, 1945. They enjoyed 54 wonderful years together. She is survived by two sons, Ronnie Neil Byers of Shelby and Michael Kent Byers and wife Susan House Byers of Leland; a grandson Christopher Neil Byers and wife Brooke Elizabeth Byers and two great-grandchildren, Britain Elizabeth Byers and Wakinian Hawke Byers of Bellevue, Washington. Her extended family of hundreds also include Linda Santorum Byers of San Marcos, Texas and Anne Russek Byers of Round Rock, Texas.

The center of her life was God, family and friends. A beloved long-time member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the Bayliss Sunday School Class, Virginia was known for her birthday calls and cards to church members and her many friends. That beautiful smile, gentle kind heart, and her others-first philosophy will live on in our hearts forever. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

A celebration of life memorial service will be conducted at a future post-Covid date at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, be creative and do a random kind act of kindness for someone or some organization in honor of Virginia Byers.

# Comments

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“ Virginia was a nice, wonderful lady. She was always so kind, loving, and eager to help with problems other people had. She will definitely be missed in our Bayliss Sunday School class.  
With love & sympathy,  
Louise Neal

Louise Neal - April 08 at 08:55 PM

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“ Mrs. Byers was one of my dearest friends. I first met her in 1971 when I was a brand new, very inexperienced nurse and she took me under her wing. She was one of the kindest, smartest, most caring people I have ever met. Although I had the book knowledge, she taught me how to really take care of patients. She loved her God, her family, and her friends. I will never forget my dear sweet friend. God called his Angel home!

Alice Biggerstaff Loper - April 08 at 03:41 PM

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“ How I treasured her annual birthday calls! I still have one recorded on my phone. Age and disability never limited her ability to love, especially members of her Aldersgate church family. I will miss her.

Cassie Herndon - April 08 at 03:15 PM

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“ Virginia was my only first cousin on my Dad's side of the family. My farther, Edward Anthony and Virginia's Mom, my Aunt Pearl were brother and sister. However, i believe Aunt Pearl was grown when Daddy was born. We all spent time together each Christmas eating a Big meal. Virginia was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was the epitome of what a nurse should be. Ronnie and Mike----- my heart grieve for your loss. So hard to believe they are all gone now. Willie Anthony Howard

Willie Howard - April 06 at 03:23 PM

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“ Mike, Susan, Chris and family. Sorry to hear of your loss. She sounds like a wonderful woman and I know she raised a Godly son. My heart goes out to you and you are in my prayers knowing God will give you comfort and peace. Love you!  
Teresa Jones



**Teresa Jones** - April 05 at 02:13 PM

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“ Mom gave me instructions to call her that 50 years ago. She said, "I always wanted a daughter and you are the first. I will always love you." She wrote me regular letters into her 80s and talked on the phone sharing her love until the last year when she just couldn't hear me. She shared her love, experience and spirituality very openly, as well as her ability to see the good no matter what her own situation or challenges. The smile in the photo was always there for anyone who visited or called on the phone. I will miss her and I am so grateful she kept her memory until the end. My love and sympathy to her immediate family and to her numerous friends who were so loved and will miss her also.

Linda Byers

**Linda Byers** - April 04 at 05:27 PM