



Virginia M. Bruce

August 9, 1925 - May 26, 2016

Bruce, Virginia M. Age 90. May 26, 2016.

Beloved wife of the late Donald. Loving mother of Cindy (Bill) Chiappetta, Patty (Peter) Benware, Bonnie (Tom) Szostkowski, Debbie (Chris) Mitguard and Dan (Barb). Proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Dear sister of Dick (Joanne) Christie, Patricia Day, Bob (Joyce) Christie, Carol Christie, the late Jack (Ann, surviving) Christie and Dot (Bruce, surviving) Hambell.

Virginia graduated in 1943 from the first graduating class of Shrine High School in Royal Oak and then from the Detroit Business Institute. She was married to Don in 1947 for 58 years until his passing in 2005. In addition to being a mother of 5, Virginia did bookkeeping for his business, Bruce's Wheel and Radiator. Her many activities included volunteering at Birthright, a crisis pregnancy center in Oakland County, bell-ringer for the Salvation Army at Christmas time, bowling, golf leagues and was a longtime member of TOPS in Troy. She also loved to travel.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until the time of the Celebration of Life at 11 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. Memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association are appreciated. Please share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Celebration of Life

JUN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
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Tribute Wall

MD

“ *My sympathy to the family. May it comfort you to know that God is near to those that are broken at heart.-Psalms 34:18*

Ms. Dee - June 02, 2016 at 05:57 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.*



June 01, 2016 at 04:20 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.*



June 01, 2016 at 03:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.*



June 01, 2016 at 12:46 PM

LF

“ Love, The Hambell Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.



Love, The Hambell Family - June 01, 2016 at 07:02 AM

BJ

“ Bob & Joyce purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.



Bob & Joyce - May 31, 2016 at 05:31 PM

YC

“ Your little sister, Carol purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.



Your little sister, Carol - May 31, 2016 at 02:26 PM

“ Virginia, in many ways, was more like a Mother figure than a sister to me. Her oldest daughter, Cindy, was only 17 months younger than I. We grew up together. When my parents traveled, I was left with the Bruce family. I have many warm memories of those visits. She was an awesome Mom to her kids. Don't ever recall hearing her raise her voice. She was gentle, seemed to always have a smile on her face and always had only positive things to say about others. That was the quality I admired the most.

My recipe box is full of recipes from her, written in her handwriting. Family favorites I continue to make year after year. She was a great baker and a great cook. Still remember the brandied fruit starter that she shared with me that I used as a young wife.

She was a stylish dresser...always! Never saw her in old t shirts or sweats, which is my normal attire around the house. She was a lady through and through until the end. I will treasure my last visit with her last fall in Lansing. Again, dressed beautifully yet unsure of who I was. Toward the end of our visit I spoke of our parents and grandparents and showed her photos of their siblings and again stating I was her baby sister. She seemed to know who I was, at least for a brief moment, giving me lots of hugs and kisses. I will treasure, always, these final moments I spent with her.

Living until ninety and passing in her sleep, moving forward into her second life while still in her dreams... I hope helps to remove the sting that is so painful for her children, grandchildren and her family. She has left behind a family and legacy that is truly a gift and treasure to us all. Rest in peace my beautiful, kind and blessed sister. I will miss you always.

Love,

Carol





Carol Christie - May 31, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *Garden of Memories was purchased for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.*



May 31, 2016 at 09:45 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Virginia M. Bruce.*



May 31, 2016 at 09:16 AM



“ *Virginia was a dear and long time friend from High School Days. We shared a lot of memories. May she rest in peace now. Shirley Hagerty Handley*

Shirley Handley - May 31, 2016 at 06:43 AM

“ My sister Virginia was 14 when I (Robert) was born. At the time, I had two older brothers, Jack and Dick along with two other sisters, Dot and Pat. These names are important as I pondered the question, why was the first name I called her 'Baziza'? Finally, in these later days of my own existence, I've finally attained the wisdom to answer that question for myself. Actually, until now, I never really thought about it but now take solace in the realization that all my other siblings at the time had single syllable names. But Virginia, that was a whole different deal. The best I could come up with at the time was 'Baziza'. At least it too is a three syllable word. Not too bad for a little tyke I'd say. At least I'd say.

I had the misfortune of coming along a full 8 years after the initial batch of 5 and so had teen aged sisters that loved to mess with my hair as well as my attire. Kind of a living manikin you might say. I still remember the green goo I think was called 'wave set' that Virginia and Dot applied generously to my hair to achieve the look they thought looked cute on me. I stood patiently in front of the mirror in the blue bathroom as they did their thing. I'm guessing Virginia must have been in her latter teens at the time and me, an impressionable 5.

A few years went by and she was married. Soon after, her husband Don began to play a major role in my life. He taught me to fix leaky radiators using a torch, flux, solder, compressed air and a large water tank. I'm sure I could still do it today. I spent many days with Don preparing a site next to the original Radiator Shop for a new larger building and later, hanging around the new shop mainly watching him and his crew align front ends and balance tires along with a myriad of other repair activities. I attribute that early experience around mechanical devices to my later career with IBM where my beginnings with them involved 'fixing things' which I enjoy doing to this day.

Fond memories to put it mildly. I was a blessed little boy and young man to have had Virginia as my big sister and later her awesome

husband Don in my life. While I left the area shortly after my time with Don in the shop, the memories and influence of those times and those people stayed with me throughout my life. May God bless Virginia as she joins her loving husband Don in paradise.

*Her Loving Brother,
Bobby*

Robert Christie - May 29, 2016 at 12:18 PM

LS

“ *Sending love and prayers to a special family.*

Lauren Ivory Smyk (Dorothy Sheldon's granddaughter)

lauren Ivory Smyk - May 29, 2016 at 11:50 AM

CO

“ *Please be encouraged*

He will swollen up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces

Isaiah 25:8

cornelius - May 29, 2016 at 05:42 AM