2016-01-16; Pamphlets; Celebrating the Life of Lula Virginia Hickerson Long

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Celebrating the Life of
Lula Virgina Hickerson Long
March 5, 1921 - December 26, 2015

Saturday, January 16, 2016
Eleven Thirty O'Clock in the Morning

Wesley Chapel
208 Oak Grove Road
Elkin, North Carolina
OBITUARY

Lula Virginia Hickerson Long was born in Premier, West Virginia on March 5, 1921. She was the fourth of 12 children born to the late Arthur James Hickerson and Lula Bell Hickerson (nee Martin), affectionately known to their grandchildren as Mama and Papa Hick. At a young age, the family moved to Ronda, North Carolina, where she spent her early years.

Virginia was predeceased by siblings Connie Martin, Eleanor Morris, Margaret Patterson, Milton Hickerson, Bernice Gwynn, Agnes Greene, Charles Hickerson and Barbara Hickerson, as well as Hugh and Dolly Hickerson, who both died in infancy. Her last surviving sister and best friend is Roberta Harris, with whom she spent the last 20 years in North Carolina before finally moving to the Washington, D.C. area to be near her children in 2015.

Virginia attended Tennessee A&I State College in Nashville, Tennessee. It was in Nashville that she met a handsome soldier, the late Benjamin Franklin Long, on leave from the U.S. Army during World War II.

On April 10, 1946, Virginia was married to the late Benjamin Franklin Long in Buffalo, New York. To that Union were born two children, Charles Benjamin Long and Debra Lynn Long-Doyle. Prior to the birth of their two children, they also welcomed Mary Carter (Mimi) into their family and loved her as their own. The children Mimi had with her husband Berton Carter, all called them grandma and grandpa.

Virginia was truly a child of the almighty God, whom she worshipped dutifully and to whom she would always pay homage to anyone and everyone who would listen. She found a church home wherever she lived and always placed God first in her life. She was indeed one of God’s greatest advocates on this earth.

Virginia led a rich and full life in each place she called home. Virginia and Benjamin raised their family in Buffalo, New York. After the birth of her first child, Charles, she left her job at Harrison Radiators to focus on motherhood. But Virginia was no ordinary stay-at-home Mom. In addition to taxiing her children to school and their numerous after school activities, she was very much engaged in the activities of the church she loved and where her entire family attended, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church. Indeed, after her children got older, Virginia took a part-time job as the church secretary.

Virginia and Benjamin had a close-knit group of friends, with whom they and their children often socialized. Many of those friends have predeceased her. One social club, in which Virginia served as President, was Nullus Secundus (Second to None). Many of the children of the club members remain friends to this day. Virginia and Ben and their circle of friends were also avid tennis players, as well as golfers. Virginia and her friends also belonged to a club called the “Playmates,” which engaged in a number of cultural, sports and fun activities with their children.

Virginia and Benjamin had a strong sense of family and instilled in their children the importance of family ties. Every summer, Virginia and Benjamin would pack up the kids and go visit each and every one of her siblings. The family first went north to Massachusetts and Connecticut and then off to New Jersey. (Continued)
They then headed down south to North Carolina, including Winston Salem, Greensboro and Lenoir and always to the homestead in Ronda. Virginia made sure that her children knew all of their aunts, uncles and cousins well. In addition, although she only bore two children, the Long household was always full with either her mother, Benjamin’s mother, and any number of nieces and nephews who spent either the summer in the Long household or a number of years there. Her children always thought they had a family much larger than the four who lived there.

The family did not have to travel far to stay in touch with Benjamin’s family, as his brother Claude and his wife lived across the street from them. His brothers Edward, Julius and Gene and sisters Bessie and Ethyl and their families also lived close by in Buffalo.

Virginia and Ben’s home was always welcoming to family and friends alike. Her children reveled in the numerous holiday festivities and summer cookouts hosted at their home. According to everyone who ever dined in the Long household, Virginia was an incredible cook. Moreover, her lofty spirit was clearly evident in her garden which was almost as beautiful as she was.

Virginia moved back home to Ronda, North Carolina in 1992 to join her two sisters, Roberta Harris and Barbara Hickerson. Mama and Papa Hick left each of their children a piece of land in Ronda, and Roberta, Barbara, and Virginia built homes to grow old in on their plots of land. Sadly, not long after Virginia moved back to Ronda, Barbara passed away from breast cancer, which has plagued the Hickerson women and their heirs for years. Barbara was Virginia’s youngest sibling who she helped raise in her home in Buffalo. Roberta's children, Judy Coleman and Jane Madison lovingly took care of Virginia and Roberta until it became necessary for Virginia to leave the home she loved due to health issues.

During her second stint living in Ronda, Virginia was an avid member of her new church home, Piney Grove United Methodist Church. While still in good health, Virginia, true to her sense of family, hosted many of her grandchildren and grand nieces and nephews during their summer vacations. In addition, she was an ever-present icon at the bi-annual Hickerson family reunions.

Virginia leaves to mourn, her children, Mary Carter (Bertron) of Buffalo, New York, Charles Long (Cathy nee Johnson) of West Odenton, Maryland, Debra Long-Doyle (the late Robert W. Doyle, Jr.) of Washington, D.C.; and her grandchildren Terence Carter (Sarilyn Johnson Carter) of Chicago, Illinois, Tony Carter of New York, New York, Dawn Carter of Las Vegas, Nevada, Michaela Doyle (Craig Murphy) of London, England, Marcus Long of West Odenton, Maryland, Skyler Doyle, a junior at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and Maya Long, a high school junior of West Odenton, Maryland. Her grandson Benjamin Doyle predeceased her. In addition, she leaves her beloved sister, Roberta Harris, two great grandchildren, Julian and Jasmine Carter, 35+ nieces and nephews, numerous grand and great grand nieces and nephews, and a host of cousins, personal friends and close friends of her children, who considered her as their second mom.
Order of Celebration

Musical Prelude

Welcome..................................Reverend Jeanette Hayes

Opening Hymn..................................Blessed Assurance

Prayer of Comfort..................................Reverend Jeanette Hayes

Remarks and Remembrances..................Reverend John Abernathy

The Scripture Lesson........Old Testament Proverbs 31:25-31
New Testament Romans 14:7-9

Memorial Tributes..........................Debra Long-Doyle, Skyler Doyle,
                                       Michaela Doyle, Mary Carter, Maya
                                       Long, Marcus Long, Charles Long

Remembering Virginia Long........Family & Friends (2 min or less)

Hymn..................................Precious Lord, Lead Me On

Eulogy..................................Reverend Jeanette Hayes

Benediction..................................Reverend Jeanette Hayes

Closing Hymn..................................It Is Well With My Soul

The Postlude
Life is but a stopping place,
   A pause in what's to be.
A resting place along the road,
   to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
   Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
   but never meant to stay.
Our destination is a place,
   Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
   For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
   We'll claim a great reward,
   And find an everlasting peace,
   Together with the Lord.

Author Unknown

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Lula Virginia Hickerson Long would like to acknowledge our sincere appreciation for the many comforting messages, phone calls, floral tributes, acts of kindness, and especially the prayers that have been sent up on our behalf during this difficult time. And a special thanks to the Family of Wesley Chapel (AND MOMMY'S CHURCH). Our hearts have been truly uplifted. God Bless You!

All are invited to a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.