



Mrs. Barbara C. Polly

June 4, 1934 - March 18, 2016

Barbara Creasy Polly, 81, passed away on Friday, March 18th at Holston Valley Medical Center.

Born on June 4, 1934, she grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia where she graduated from E.C. Glass High School. She attended Emory & Henry College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and met her future husband, Brownie. Upon graduation and after marrying Brownie, she taught elementary school in Richmond while Brownie attended dental school at MCV.

She moved to Big Stone Gap in 1958 and she joined Trinity United Methodist and the chancel choir and became fully immersed in the community. As a member of the Big Stone Gap Music Study Club, she was instrumental in the production of annual Broadway musicals consisting solely of local talent and played the female lead in sixteen productions.

In 1964, when the outdoor musical drama "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" began, Barbara played the lead role of June Tolliver for the first five seasons. That began a lifelong relationship with the drama's parent organization, Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts, Inc. In 1970 when John Fox Jr.'s sister passed away at the family home in Big Stone Gap, she helped negotiate the purchase of the home and created the John Fox Jr. House & Museum. She became President of Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts, Inc. and served in that role until recently.

In 1967, she was instrumental in chartering a Cub Scout Pack in Big Stone Gap. She remained involved in scouting for 18 years as a Den Mother and a scouting leader eventually receiving the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award in scouting. That Cub Scout Pack continues today.

In 1977, Barbara returned to teaching English at Powell Valley High School and instructed the One Act Play team for the next two years. She then left teaching and joined Don Wax Realty and began selling real estate and eventually became a broker. She bought the firm, reorganized it and named it Lonesome Pine Realty, eventually becoming the largest real estate company serving four counties. She was named Realtor of the Year in 1999 for the Southwest Virginia Association of Realtors. She sold the company in 2000.

Barbara was the first female President of the Emory & Henry College Alumni Association. In 2003, Barbara was named to the Board of Trustees of Emory & Henry.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Tamara Lee Polly, and her parents, Vernon and Ruth Creasy. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Brownie Polly, Jr. She also leaves a sister, Shirley Baber of Lynchburg, Virginia, and a brother, Kenneth Creasy, of Burlington, North Carolina, as well as sons, Brownie E. Polly, III and his wife, Connie, of Roanoke, Virginia; Wesley T. Polly and his wife Lisa, of Big Stone Gap, Virginia; and John V. Polly, of Los Angeles, California. She is also survived by grandchildren, Wesley T. Polly, II, and Colston E. Polly of Big Stone Gap, and Katherine "Kit" Polly and Brownie E. Polly, IV of Roanoke.

The family will receive friends from 4-8 on Tuesday, at Trinity United Methodist Church (East First Street S & Wyandotte Ave) in Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church in the church sanctuary with the Rev. Terry Goodman officiating.

Burial will follow at Powell Valley Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts, Inc., P. O. Box 1976, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219 or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens

5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
203 E. 1st St., S.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Service

MAR 23. 1:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
203 E. 1st St., S.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Burial

MAR 23 (ET)

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens
5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Barbara C. Polly*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly.*



March 23, 2016 at 10:03 AM



“ *Teresa Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly*



Teresa Cross - March 22, 2016 at 07:32 PM



“ *A mentor to me in the 90's when I played June Tolliver for several years. My dad rebuilt the bleachers and the cabin during those years. She gave me the courage and inspiration to step outside my box of just singing and take on the role of June. She saw something in me that I did not see myself. She was right. Those years were the best times of my younger years. My late son played my little brother "Bub" each night. He loved her so much. Together, they are now walking the streets of Heaven. I will miss her so very much.*

Diane Audas Collins - March 22, 2016 at 05:45 PM

DS

“ I will always be grateful to Barbara Polly for her support of the John Fox, Jr. Literary Festival and for all of her work in sustaining the cultural heritage of this region. Big Stone Gap and southwest Virginia are better places because Barbara was here to rally so many people in common cause to advance the common good. Her spirit, kindness, and public service will be greatly missed by everyone in this community.

Barbara never seemed to become discouraged by the magnitude of a community project or the obstacles she faced in making a project successful. She had the ultimate "can do" attitude. She was equally talented at standing on a stage or pulling together an excellent meal (or cookbook) to raise funds.

Barbara had a gift for using small town resources in creative ways and she leaves a wonderful legacy behind through her many decades of service to Lonesome Pine Arts and Crafts. My heartfelt condolences go out to her family.

"Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Donna Stanley

Donna Stanley - March 22, 2016 at 05:44 PM

LJ

“ Lisa Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly



lisa johnson - March 22, 2016 at 05:17 PM

TB

“*"Fiddler on the Roof," "Annie Get Your Gun," "The Pajama Game," and how many more!! What a special treat it was to share those with Barbara during the 1970's plus many hours with the Methodist Church Choir. And oh those cantatas! But nothing was more special than to be able to visit with her this past October when we returned to BSG for the "premier." Our condolences go out to the family.*

*Tom and Sara Burke
Kansas City, KS*

Tom Burke - March 22, 2016 at 05:15 PM

DM

“*So sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Polly. She was a wonderful lady who raised a great family as well as made so much positive impact in our region, especially in our beloved Big Stone Gap. Our heart and prayers for the Polly family. God Bless you all during this difficult time.*

Dan and Debbie Minahan

Dan Minahan - March 22, 2016 at 04:05 PM

DT

“*Such a beautiful woman. A wonderful kind caring person. Will never forget you and what you have brought to Big Stone Gap. RIP*

Delilah Talley - March 22, 2016 at 03:55 PM

CH

“*Thanks for all your hard work. Rest in peace with Jesus.*

curtis hall - March 22, 2016 at 02:46 PM

JW

“ So very sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. I loved working with her in "The Trail," and in several musicals as well as other community events when we lived in Big Stone. She was lovely, gracious, generous, talented in many, many ways and so very strong. She will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Hugs,
Judy And Don Womack

Judy Womack - March 22, 2016 at 01:18 PM

TF

“ The Sanchez Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly.



The Sanchez Family - March 22, 2016 at 12:17 PM

DC

“ *Brownie, Wes & John*
I am so sorry for the loss of your Mom. As you know I worked on an off in Big Stone Gap in the 1970s, Your Mom was always good for a hot meal and company while I was away from home. Thanks for sharing your Mom with me. I will miss her as I know all of you will.

Dean Cranwell - March 22, 2016 at 11:38 AM

B6

“ Boy Scout Troop 604 purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly.



Boy Scout Troop 604 - March 21, 2016 at 08:44 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly.



March 21, 2016 at 08:16 PM

TT

“ Special prayers for Barbara and thoughts for the family at this time. What a go-getter! She loved only her family more than Big Stone Gap. A wonderful legacy she is leaving behind for her children and theirs. Love to you all!



Toni Trigiani - March 21, 2016 at 06:38 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly.



March 21, 2016 at 11:19 AM

DS

“ Mary and I have known Barbara for many decades as friend and, professionally, as a realtor. In both capacities she has always been most gracious and a joy to work with. She has indeed been a gift to us and, indeed, a gift to the whole Big Stone Gap and area community. We will miss her deeply -- as will so many in the community. We send our condolences to her family. All are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.
Dennett and Mary Slemp

Dennett and Mary Slemp - March 21, 2016 at 10:42 AM

JR

“ Barbara and I got to know each other through our shared commitment to outdoor theatre. She was a delight to be with and a true gracious Southern lady. We all will miss her very much.

*John Russell, Managing Director, The Montford Park Players,
Asheville, NC*

John Russell - March 21, 2016 at 10:18 AM

MG

“ My condolences to the family in your bereavement.

Mike Garrison - March 21, 2016 at 08:12 AM

 Donny
Jenkins

“ She cared for her town and her community and was always there for me when I needed some help or advice on something I was involved with and always had a kind word to encourage me. She was like an adopted mother and I will miss her and her smiling face. May God be with the family at their time of need.

Donny Jenkins - March 21, 2016 at 08:07 AM

GS

“ It was one of the pleasures of m life to have worked with Barbara on Trail of the Lonesome Pine. She was the essence of Southern class and charm; a beautiful smlle and a kind word. My prayers to Brownie and the boys in their time of loss. Barbara was one of those special links to my past in Big Stone Gap. She will be sorely missed.
Greg Sturgill

Greg Sturgill - March 21, 2016 at 07:53 AM

SP

“ Susan Pennington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly



Susan Pennington - March 21, 2016 at 12:25 AM

SS

“ Saundra Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly



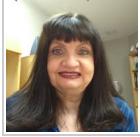
saundra smith - March 20, 2016 at 09:45 PM

JW

“ Prayers for the family and prayers for the people of this area who are grieving over Barbara's death. The angels are rejoicing because one of their own is coming home.I can see her now! SINGING!



janet wilson - March 20, 2016 at 09:15 PM



“ *Martha Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly*



Martha Moore - March 20, 2016 at 08:40 PM

AM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ann Marrs - March 20, 2016 at 06:49 PM

CQ

“ *A beautiful, gracious, elegant, true Southern lady. I loved working with her at The Trail of the Lonesome Pine and June Tolliver House for 9 years. She left a legacy for her family, friends and community. You will surely be missed "Junie".*

Clyde & Juanita Quillen - March 20, 2016 at 06:47 PM

DG

“ *A true lady, a lady of grace and beauty, with a heart full of kindness and love.*

Dora Lynn Garrison - March 20, 2016 at 01:11 PM

TC

“ Teresa Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Barbara C. Polly



Teresa Cross - March 20, 2016 at 11:27 AM

DV

“ Originally from Big Stone Gap, with much of my family from there, I have known of Barbara and Brownie about all of my life. Barbara Polly has always been an iconic name in Big Stone. I will always remember her beautiful voice singing at my parents' funerals, for my father, Walter Vermillion, in 1991, and for my mother, Virginia Vermillion, in 1996. I want to express my gratitude for her kind gestures during those times and it will never be forgotten. My condolences to all of her family. Thank you.

Don Vermillion - March 20, 2016 at 10:54 AM

BS

My condolences to the Polly family. Barbara was a true lady of compassion. It is hard to think of BSG without Barbara Polly.

Bill Stone - March 20, 2016 at 01:36 PM

LT

You, the entire family of Barbara Polly, are in my thoughts and prayers. As a former neighbor, my entire family always had wonderful thoughts of Barbara being a fine lady. Blessing be with all of you. LuLu Pobst Thomas

LuLu Pobst Thomas - March 20, 2016 at 01:42 PM

PA

I speak in behalf of the Master's family, who most have left this earth for a better home in Heaven, but I was born in Big Stone Gap and my association with Barbara was when Jack Gibbbs would invite me to come back home to join the Community Chorus at Christmas time and sing with them I was always honored to sing with Barbara at the end of the concert. My Mother and brother Tommy sang with her to in many of the Broadway show the Music club presenter and in many concerts and in The trail of the Lonesome Pine. She was so very kind to me, and my family. I remember her speaking so many kind word about Tommy at his funeral so many years ago..I thank her for that. She will be greatly missed! My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Patsy Masters Adams

Patsy Masters Adams - March 20, 2016 at 05:44 PM

JH

Barbara Polly. How do you say that name without hearing her beautiful voice and seeing her lovely smile. I know you and Annie are together and watching over us all. I love you. Thank you for all you did and all the memories. Jane Cline Higgins

jane higgins - March 20, 2016 at 06:53 PM

DF

Prayers going out for the Polly Family. She was truly one of a kind.

Dianne Kiser and Family - March 21, 2016 at 10:18 AM

DW

What a lovely lady if ever there was one. She was a gracious mentor to all of us in the world of American Outdoor Drama. We were blessed, we were all very blessed to have known her.

Donnie Williams, Tablerock Amphitheater, Salado, Texas

Donnie Williams - March 22, 2016 at 08:29 PM