



Quilters
UNLIMITED

Honoring our QU friends who we have
lost this past year

IN MEMORIAM

2022 / 2023



Burke Chapter – Mary Ritenour

Mary Ritenour

Mary Ritenour, a longtime member of Quilters Unlimited, passed away peacefully April 8, 2022, at home. She was 79 years young. At various times, she was a member of the Mount Vernon, Vienna and Burke chapters. Funeral services were held at Calvary Hill Baptist Church with interment at Fairfax Memorial Park.

Mary was born in North Carolina May 29, 1942, and moved to the D.C. area after high school and began a career as a financial analyst with the Small Business Administration where she retired. She started work with JoAnn Fabrics and retired from that job several years later.

Mary was an excellent seamstress and made Civil War costumes for various members of her Civil War re-enactment group, knitted, crocheted and quilted many lap quilts for various community organizations. During the pandemic, Mary made over 900 face masks for local community groups. Through the years, she made numerous quilt tops for her use – many were never quilted. At the time of her passing, she wanted her stash of fabric to be donated to the Burke chapter of Quilters Unlimited and seven van loads were given to the Burke chapter for community service.

Mary was heavily involved with the Wannabees, aka Monday night quilters, from 1998 to 2020. We met at the church every Monday to work on personal projects as well as community projects. A couple of projects included wall hangings of the Nativity and We Three Kings were made for the church. She made a special quilt for the church to celebrate their 50 years and sold the quilt with money going back to the church.

She loved her yard and meticulously maintained her yard and was named best lawn of the week by the local homeowner's association several times. Many of her flowers were used in altar flowers at her church.

Mary thoroughly enjoyed Christmas holidays and decorated a blue Spruce with Christmas lights in her front yard for years.

She was heavily involved with Calvary Hill Baptist Church and was responsible for the altar flowers at the church for many years. She served the church in numerous capacities over the years. She enjoyed cooking for various groups at the church. She was known for her banana pudding and always made a special dish for the minister.

Mary married Ken Ritenour and served as a step-mother to his children. Ken was involved with a local Civil War re-enactment group and Mary enthusiastically joined in. She was the camp cook, edited the group newsletter, and made bullets for the group. Members of her group served as pallbearers at her funeral.

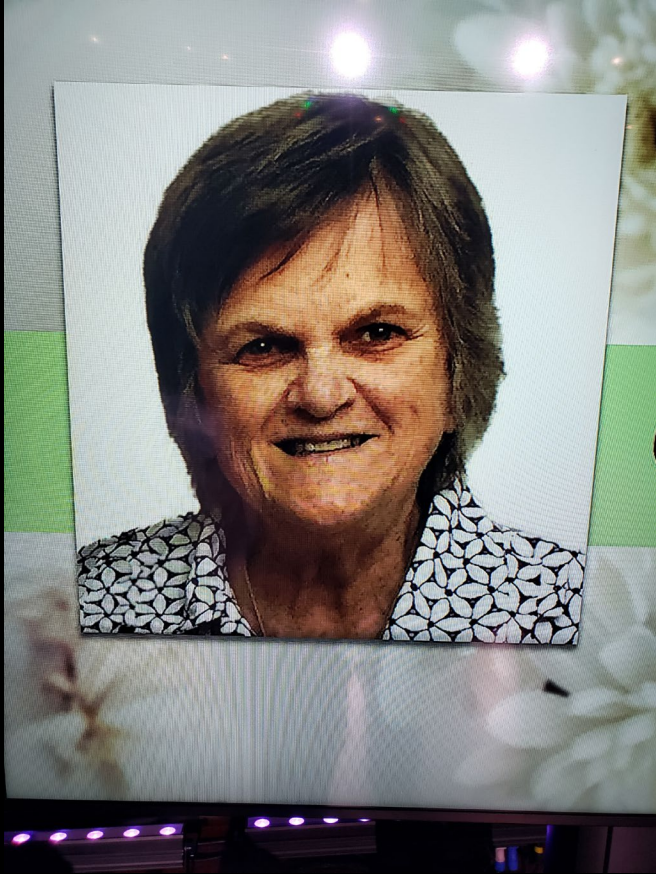
Centreville Chapter – Adele Louise Dillie



Adele Louise Dillie, age 65, of Chantilly, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on Monday, December 19, 2022. Adele was an avid seamstress who made dolls, tote bags, quilts, and many other items. She started out wanting to study music in college but ended up accepting a job at Booz Allen & Hamilton (BAH) to support her family. Within her 42 years at BAH she earned her Bachelor's degree and her Master's degree in Distance Education. Adele supported women who are striving for economic independence through skill building. In discussing how Centreville QU could honor our dear friend Adele, who left us so suddenly, we decided to collect sewing and quilting items in Adele's honor to support Sew & Sew, an international patchwork/quilting charity. Sue Willison, HQU, collected our donations shown here and will be mailing them off to Bulgaria in advance of her travel there in the Fall.



McLean Chapter – Ginny McConnell



Ginny McConnell passed away in early March while on an outing with friends from her church. She was with friends doing something she loved when she passed peacefully. Ginny was an active member of McLean QU for many years. While she enjoyed quilting, she will be remembered by many as always coming with some knitting to meetings and bees. For many years, Ginny organized bus trips, especially to the Lancaster Quilt Show. Her positive attitude, warm and generous nature, and creative energy always made her a valued member of the guild.



Barbara E. Tucker

May 15, 1939 – February 20, 2023

Mt. Vernon Quilters Unlimited

Barbara Tucker was born in Leicester, England, May 15, 1939 (Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939). She moved to the United States in 1958, married Eliot Tucker in 1961 and raised her family in Massachusetts and Virginia. She lived in Alexandria, Virginia from December 1975 until her death.

Mrs. Tucker created quilts for soldiers with the Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited chapter, sang with the Seaport Sounds Choral Group and was well known for her cooking and baking skills.

Springfield Chapter – Juanita Golden



Juanita Golden passed away in December 2022, a kind and thoughtful woman she was a longtime member of Springfield Quilters Unlimited. Learning from her Grandmother, she made her first quilt as a young child. Juanita was a Home Economics teacher in Pennsylvania before moving to Virginia, where she taught clothing construction and quilting for Arlington County Adult Education for over fifteen years. She enjoyed quilting and keeping up on the latest quilting techniques. She finished the binding on her last quilt for her Granddaughter Zoe days before she passed. Her daughters who learned how to sew from her, are quilters and carry on the family tradition.



Vienna Chapter – Alice Simmons Oliphant



In Memoriam Tribute Written by Karla Vernon: I think it was 1996 when I first met Alice at a VQU Chapter meeting. She made me feel welcome, as I was a new member and hardly knew anyone. Alice enjoyed everything about quilts, whether they were made by her, or by others. She was an enthusiastic volunteer and was genuinely happy to be part of the group. Alice was a frequent “retreater.” Our VQU retreats were held at the Brethren Center in New Windsor, Md during the 1990’s until about 2012. She participated in the “optional” projects and quilts because it was just all so much fun. What could be better than all day sewing, no cooking, and no cleaning? I remember one year when Alice, Louise S. and I made a midnight raid to get ice cream at a nearby restaurant. (It wasn’t really midnight.) We had some good laughs and got to know each other better. Alice was fun to be around because she was a happy person, and we will all miss her.

In Memoriam Tribute Written by Janet Marney: Alice Simmons Oliphant passed away on October 12, 2022. She was a sweet lady with a great sense of humor and a kind heart. She loved her quilting friends and enjoyed going on the Vienna QU Retreat. She was my dear friend for decades and will be deeply missed.



Vienna Chapter – Billy Jay Rice

Long time Vienna member, Billy Jay Rice of Fairfax, Virginia passed away on Sunday, May 14, 2023

He was always one to welcome new members and was always willing to have an extra hand to sew bears. He made and donated 100s of bears to children in hospitals. Bill, known for his teddy bear quilting donations to children in hospitals, was always busy making more bears. Bill was a very generous man who shared his mother's love of quilting with his wife Mary, his family, and others. He shared his fabric to make quilts for Project Linus. He never missed sharing his amazing quilts at all the VQU shows. COVID years kept us apart but he is now sharing his quilts with others and all VQU members will miss him.

