



## Phyllis Christine "Chris" VanGilder

July 8, 1926 - August 31, 2018

Phyllis Christine "Chris" VanGilder, 92, returned to her heavenly home on August 31, 2018 after a valiant struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Her devotion to family and very strong belief in God supported her throughout life and ultimately gave her peace.

Christine was born to the late Clyde J and Zella (Turner) Vandergrift in Fairmont WV on July 8, 1926. The oldest of eight children, Christine played a dominant role as a loving mentor to her brothers. Shortly after her mother's death her father Clyde remarried Alice Garlow and she became Grandma to all of the Grand and Great-Grandchildren.

Christine was blessed with a large and loving family. She married her best friend, the late Lester E Van Gilder on December 9, 1943. Her mother died when Christine was 21 years old shortly after the birth of their first child, Patricia. After her mother died the role of Sister became even more significant in the lives of her brothers. A very close bond became even tighter as there was little distinction between the two families during her early years of marriage. Together Christine and Lester raised their six children with love, discipline, charity and humility. As a young adult Christine studied the Bible and as her family grew she faithfully followed its teachings and purveyed those lessons to her children by example. From birth Christine dedicated her children to God and encouraged them to explore the beauty of His teachings through reading, study, and by serving others.

Christine was an educator at heart. She was generous, kind, considerate and compassionate and always had time to answer questions or help solve problems. She will be dearly missed by her loved ones, who celebrate the fact that she is at peace with her Creator.

Christine is survived by her daughters; Patricia (Robert) Levenson, Donna (Paul) Kimbrew, Tammy (Craig) Richards and sons Richard (Iara) and Dennis (Cathy) VanGilder; sixteen grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren; brothers Marvin (Margie) Vandergrift, Ronnie (Marie) Vandergrift and Larry Vandergrift.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, son Michael E (Linda) VanGilder, and brothers Richard, Gerald, Donald and Darrell Vandergrift.

Friends and family are welcome to call at Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home, 209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, on Monday, September 3, 2018 from 4-6p.m.; a service will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home with Sr. Pastor Doug Hendrixson officiating.

Additionally, there will be a short service Tuesday, September 4th at 11:00 a.m. at Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home preceding the funeral procession to Mt. Zion Cemetery where Christine will be laid to rest. A reception will follow at the Central Church of the Nazarene located at 114 Walnut Avenue, Fairmont.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate a contribution to the Soup Opera, 425 Quincy Street, Fairmont, WV 26554 or the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011 Washington, D.C. 20090-6011.

The family is grateful for the loving care, support, and guidance of the professional staff and volunteers at Brookdale Memory Care and Hospice in Kingsport, Tennessee.

# Cemetery

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**Mt. Zion Cemetery**  
Mount Zion Road  
Fairmont, WV, 26554

# Events

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**SEP 3 Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM  
Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home  
209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, WV, US, 26554

**SEP 3 Service** 06:00PM  
Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home  
209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, WV, US, 26554

**SEP 4 Service** 11:00AM  
Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home  
209 Merchant Street, Fairmont, WV, US, 26554

# Comments

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Marion County Senior Citizens.

**Vicki Nichols** - September 04, 2018 at 08:19 AM

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“ To Patty, Dennis, and all the family, please accept my sincere condolences during this difficult time. I learned of your mother's passing just shortly ago. Please know that my prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Your mother was indeed kind and lovely. Heaven has gained an angel. Jo-Helen and Eddie Williams

**Jo Helen Williams** - September 03, 2018 at 06:37 PM

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“ Dear Aunt Christine,  
Has I sit here looking at your photo the memories of the past come flooding through my mind. The singing of hymns at the family reunion after eating to much. The times all us kids were directed to your basement while the adults played cards. (with all the good snacks we weren't allowed to have ) lol. To the time you taught me with great patience how to crochet again and again because I couldn't seem to get pass the first few chains. To the time my daughter needed a pen pal for school and you gladly took on the challenge of writing to a fourth grader for a year. To the time you had dad bring you to my house to give Leah a beautiful doll on your way to your daughters. Your love and kindness for me and my family will never be forgotten. Leah now crochets everything she can because of you and cherishes the doll and time you gave us. That will be carried on for generations. I am told you named me as a birthday present for you, since I was born one day before yours. My name means "little dear one". Any name can define you ,follow you in good and bad showing character. My feeling is that my name shows I was loved by you before you knew me allowing me to share a bond that can not be broken by time or distance. I have been blessed beyond measure to be connected to this family and am proud to be able to pass down the memories and love taught to me. As some chapters close from my childhood causing grief , I have joy also knowing that my future generations will flourish due to the foundation given by you and my family. Thank you Aunt Christine for being you. Will always love you.

**Darlene heldreth** - September 03, 2018 at 11:25 AM

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“ We the children of Dorsey and Corky Vandegrift want to offer our sincere condolences to Chris’s family. The Vandegrift family, especially Chris, are Bible believing, and Chris has a new home with God, and knowing that will bring comfort to the family left behind.

**Lewis Vandegrift** - September 02, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ I work at Brookdale on the night shift. She was my favorite. She remind me of one of my grandmother. I will miss her and Jer smiling face. Praying for the family.

Rhonda Montoya

**Rhonda Montoya** - September 02, 2018 at 09:37 PM



“ Thank you for caring for my grandmother, Rhonda! God bless you. Much love, Stacey Patterson

**stacey patterson** - September 03, 2018 at 09:15 AM



“ Condolences and prayers of peace.

**Dan Lee** - September 04, 2018 at 12:17 PM