



## Virginia Hewes Holt

August 25, 1924 - November 22, 2014

Virginia Hewes Holt- Virginia Hewes Holt passed away peacefully, surrounded by members of her family, on November 22, 2014. Family will hold private services at a later date.

Virginia was born in Cleveland, OH, on August 25, 1924 to Stephen and Martha Hewes. On the day of her birth, her father saw a small bird called a “Peewee bird” singing in a bush, and immediately nicknamed his new daughter “Peewee”. This was only one of the many nicknames Virginia acquired over the years (grandchildren called her “Mimi” – or “Peewee” and her sister called her “Pud” or “Puddy”).

Virginia grew up in Ohio, California, and Colorado, and especially treasured her experiences at her father’s and Uncle Charlie’s homestead, the Hewes-Kirkwood Inn, in Estes Park, CO. Virginia was nine months old when she first went to Hewes-Kirkwood (HK) via train, a trip the family continued to do every summer. HK was established in 1907 when her father, uncle, and grandmother laid claim to 196 acres of land through the Homestead Act. The main cabin, called Bleak House, was completed in November of that year. Eventually they added several cabins and outhouses for guests, a barn, and converted the main cabin to the lobby and offices of the Inn. Virginia’s favorite cabin was the “Solitaire”.

The Hewes-Kirkwood Inn became the Rocky Ridge Music School, which operates the facility (all its original structures survive) today as a summer school for musicians. Virginia last visited HK in September, 2007, on the 100th

anniversary of its founding. One of her thrills was ringing HK's porch bell, used in the past to announce dinner and vespers. As a child, Virginia wasn't allowed to ring the bell – something only her uncle could do!

HK lies at the beginning of the trail to the top of Longs Peak, which stands at 14,259 feet tall, the tallest in what is today Rocky Mountain National Park. For her 12th birthday present, Virginia wanted to climb to the top of Longs Peak, which she, her brother, some friends, and a local guide familiar with the mountain did. This was quite an accomplishment! Virginia wrote her name in the "summit log" kept by the National Park Service at the top of the mountain. In September, 1943, after graduating from high school, Virginia entered Nurse's Training at the University Of Akron School Of Nursing, receiving her nurse's cap in March, 1944.

Virginia then enlisted in the US Navy WAVES September 22, 1944. She was honorably discharged June 6, 1946 with the rank of Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class, although she had met the qualifications for Pharmacist's Mate 1st Class.

While in the Navy, she met and then married the love of her life, Allen Z Holt, Jr. Allen was also in the Navy – serving during WWII aboard the attack transport USS Wharton (AP7) as a Signalman. Allen had required hospitalization near the end of the war, and was transferred to the hospital facility where Virginia served. The rest is history!

Allen and Virginia were married July 26, 1947 at Westlawn Methodist Church in Akron, OH. Their honeymoon night was spent at Hotel Cleveland (which cost \$7.48 per night).

They embarked on a loving life together. Allen signed his letters to Virginia, "Always Yours, Allen", sometimes using the acronym "AYA".

Allen and Virginia moved to Jackson, MS, where two of their four children were born -- Allen III and Martha (Marty).

The family moved to Atlanta, GA in 1951 and then to Jackson, TN in 1954. In Jackson, their third and fourth children were born – Jack and Jill. The expanded family then moved back to Atlanta, GA in 1963. Allen passed away

unexpectedly of a brain aneurysm in 1967, leaving Virginia to raise the four children on her own. Virginia went to work for Emory University, where her wonderful work ethic (which she passed along to her children), enthusiasm, and optimism eventually promoted her as the Clinic Coordinator for the Emory Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Clinic. Virginia poured affection and caring into her work with the children and families affected by this disease.

In 1989, Virginia was chosen as one of the recipients of the “Award of Distinction” by Emory University. This award is given to a “very select few employees who have exhibited the highest level of consistent excellence in the performance of their jobs at Emory University”. Virginia retired in 1991 from her clinic coordinator position. The staff there gave her a big retirement party and rewarded her with a beautiful rocking chair.

During all this time, Virginia continued to raise her four children with love, caring, optimism, and fun, and watch as they moved on to lives of their own – marrying and presenting her with 14 grandchildren over the years. Virginia was always, first, a family person – and strongly believed in the power of family. Her greatest delights and happiness came when she was with any or all of her family members. With Jack and Jill, Virginia went on camping trips for vacations. She organized weekend stays with the family, renting cabins in various state parks for family weekend get-togethers. We have so many memories of times spent in these cabins, the pine-cone and acorn “fights”, football and Frisbee games, and exploring and hiking in the woods. As the families moved apart due to jobs, Virginia would drive to Valdosta, Macon, Peachtree City -- wherever her children and grandchildren lived -- to spend time with them. She helped raise her grandchildren through these travels, forming close associations with all of them. She was always available for love, fun, and advice. One of her pastimes was clipping articles from newspapers and magazines that fit the interests or current situation for someone, and send to them. She even used the computer and sent emails to everyone – continuing to do this up until a few months before her passing. As her family

grew, now including 11 great-grandchildren (with another on the way), Virginia continued to organize family get-togethers – usually a pool party at one of the kids' houses, or hamburgers and hotdogs at another of the kids, and Thanksgiving and Christmas. We always loved the gift-wrapping battles at Christmas! She had a long-time tradition of dinner during the week with any family nearby or who happened to be there – we called it “Monday Night Dinner”. Virginia also traveled to various parts of the United States – New England, California, Colorado, and Florida. She had a very memorable train trip through the Pacific Northwest and other parts of the west with her sister, Mary. Virginia had a life-long love of our country, the United States. Her house was filled with American flags, bald eagle statues, Uncle Sam, and other Americana items. She was very proud to be an American!

Virginia loved baseball, learning the game at her father's knee, listening to the radio. In Atlanta, she became an ardent follower of the Atlanta Braves – while she attended only a few games personally, she watched or listened to nearly every game every season, recording the action on score sheets.

Virginia was always a source of inspiration, caring, and love for all her kids. She unselfishly gave of her time to any of us who needed it (and sometimes when we didn't know we needed it!). Although she didn't have large sums of money, she saved up a fund for each grandchild, which she called “the Mimi Award”, given to each grandchild upon graduation from high school.

In addition to her husband, Allen, Virginia is predeceased by her parents and her brother, Bud, Bud's wife and Virginia's sister-in-law, Carolyn, and brother-in-law John Tupper. She is survived by her sister Mary Tupper of Davis, CA; son Allen Z Holt III (Kaye) of Snellville, GA; daughter Marty Morris (Sam) of Peachtree City, GA; son Jack Holt (Sonya) of Lexington, NC; daughter Jill Lovern (Scott) of Buford, GA; 14 grandchildren; 11 ½ great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

We will always remember her love, caring, and teaching, and the joy she brought to all around her. She inspired us then, and she will continue to inspire us in our memories of her. She was the best.

Thanks, Mom, for everything you did for us!

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a contribution to:

Peachtree Christian Hospice

3430 Duluth Park Lane

Duluth, GA 30096

Peachtree Christian Hospice is an incredible place with amazing, caring, and compassionate people. We are blessed that we found them.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Virginia Hewes Holt*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Virginia was indeed the best. Working with her at the CF center for five years, I never saw her get frazzled, I never heard her say anything unkind about anyone, and her gracious manner of dealing with patients, parents, doctors and other staff was surreal. She loved each of those children....I remember when Mrs. Posey was unable to find a Cabbage Patch doll for Rebecca, Virginia went out and found one! She was always generous. When her sister went to China, she brought back a red jacket for Virginia....it didn't fit her and she gave it to me!!!! I still have it and think of her as I wear it....I have many things she gave me, actually.*

*She spoke about each of her children and grandchildren..I felt like I knew each of you. All of you were dearly loved and she knew she was dearly loved, too!!!*

*I'm so glad she passed away peacefully and was not alone and that she was under the care of a wonderful hospice.*

*I was blessed to call her my friend. She holds a special place in my heart.*

*Diane Stannard*

**Diane Stannard** - November 25, 2014 at 05:44 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Virginia Hewes Holt.*



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November 24, 2014 at 07:39 PM