



## Mrs. Katherine Turnbull Bainbridge

June 2, 1941 - February 9, 2021

Katherine “Kit” Turnbull Bainbridge, retired teacher and wife of the Rt. Rev. Harry B. Bainbridge III, died February 9th at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center in Easton, MD. She was 79 years old.

Born and raised in Wilmington, DE, Kit attended the Tatnall School (C’ 59). After high school, she spent two years at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC before graduating with a BA in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1963.

Upon graduation, she married Harry Bainbridge. The couple made their first residence in Norfolk, VA. In 1964, they moved to Sewanee, TN, where Harry was enrolled in Seminary to become an Episcopal Priest. The couple also lived in Memphis, Fayetteville and Knoxville, TN, Monroe, LA and Easton, MD before Harry was elected Bishop of Idaho.

Along the way, Kit served in many roles within the Episcopal Church and also in education. As an advocate for Christian Education she worked with Education for Ministry, youth groups and Sunday school classes. Anyone who participated in a Bible study class with Kit quickly became aware of her understanding of the importance of living the faith with others. Upon returning to Easton, Kit served as the Diocese of Easton Co-Chair of Episcopal Relief and Development, after Harry had served as the Chairman of the Board of the national organization. Kit also valued her work with Stephen’s Ministry Pastoral Care Program. She was known among the Episcopal Bishops Spouses/Partners community as a leader in mobilizing to minister to the poor and the needy. Kit loved to entertain church members, hosting open houses for congregants at all the churches where they served.

A lifelong learner, Kit attended classes at Old Dominion University, the University of Virginia, Memphis State University, the University of Tennessee, Chesapeake College and Boise State University while receiving an MA in Reading Instruction from the University of Northern Colorado and an Ed.S. in Guidance and Counseling from Northeast Louisiana University. She taught, tutored and was a reading specialist, education specialist and

consultant at schools and school districts from preschool to the college level in 5 states. Kit also raised money for the Blue Ridge School, founded by her grandfather, in St. George, VA.

Kit is survived by her son, Harry B. Bainbridge IV and his wife, Tara Scanlon of Washington, DC, daughter, Elizabeth Bainbridge and her husband, Michael Beber of Reston, VA, her sister, Jane Blake Turnbull of Wilmington, DE, her brother, John Turnbull of Virginia Beach, VA and four grandchildren, May, Ned & Clara Bainbridge and Henry Beber.

Per her wishes, Kit will be cremated. No memorial service is planned at this time, due to Covid-19 concerns, but one will be announced in the future. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to Episcopal Relief & Development ([www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)) or the George P. Mayo Scholarship Fund at Blue Ridge School ([www.blueridgeschool.com](http://www.blueridgeschool.com))

To those who knew her, Kit will remain a kind, welcoming and peaceful soul, now at peace.

# Comments

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“ Dear Blake and John,  
Your sister Kit was the personification of sweetness. She and Harry were the perfect match. What a wonderful life of giving her talents to so many causes and organizations.

My great and most entertaining memory of Kit goes back to when she and Harry were in Norfolk when she was a teacher. This story goes back to circa 1963 when I was in the USMC stationed at Lejeune.

I was driving back around midnight from a Wilmington weekend home with a fellow "jarhead" who made the trip more expensive. We were stopped for doing 35mph in a 25mph zone through a very small town on the Virginia peninsula by the local officer. My "jarhead" companion thought he could talk us out of the ticket. Instead of just getting a ticket and on our way we made an appearance in night court and left with almost no money, (just enough for the ferry at Cape Charles) and a near-empty gas tank with a 100 miles plus to go get to Camp Lejeune.

I cannot remember what made me think of Kit, other than resourceful desperation and the knowledge that I actually remembered she was living in Norfolk.

Long story short.

Phone company information gave me her phone number, now near 1:00 am, Unbelievably, Kit answered the phone. I told her my plight. Without the benefit of GOOGLE maps, I found her apartment and \$10 in an envelop pinned to her door made it possible for me and my friend to get back to base in time.

Regrettably, I was so relieved with my escape from being late I did not think to return her kindness. At the least, I hope she had fun with my story.

**Brud Reese** - March 04 at 05:48 PM

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“ I am so sad to hear of Kit's passing. We were classmates at Tatnall many years ago and were able to reconnect after many years when she returned east to Easton. My prayers to her whole family and in particular to her wonderful sister, Jane Blake. Another old friend gone!

**Judith King Axarlis** - February 18 at 01:09 PM

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“ I am so sorry to learn of Kit's passing. One of the many changes brought about by the pandemic is that we don't make regular contact with our friends at church so it has been a while since I had occasion to visit with her. I always enjoyed our conversations which often centered on current events and I will miss having such opportunities. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.



**Phil Foster** - February 16 at 05:52 AM