



Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin

September 1, 1931 - July 21, 2022

Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother Aretta Marie "Rettsy" Griffin went home to be with her Lord and Savior on July 21, 2022. She was 90 years old.

Born September 1, 1931, to David and Carrie Stranahan Baynard, she was the youngest of nine siblings.

On December 23rd, 1950 she married the love of her life John Paul "Jack" Griffin. They were married for 71 beautiful years.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, James Baynard, Ned Baynard, Stanley "Dick" Baynard, and her sisters, Rebecca Crouse, Evelyn Kemp, Grace Dadds, Violet Pinder, and Ida Mae Baynard.

After attending St. Michael's High School, she fondly remembered working next door to her home, at the Kirkham gas and grocery store, and spoke affectionately of the owners that treated her like family. Rettsy often lovingly recalled her childhood memories of living on her farm, living on the water, and playing sports.

After marrying, she worked at the defense plant in Chestertown and by God's grace, escaped the historical explosion unharmed. When her children were young, she enjoyed volunteering as a librarian at Church Hill Elementary School. Later in life, she devoted her time to being a full-time mother, wife,

and grandmother.

Affectionately known to all as Miss Rettsy, or Mom Ret, she never met anyone she didn't call a friend and would always greet you with the biggest hug. A devout Christian woman of strong faith, she was a dedicated member of Church Hill United Methodist Church. She, a breast cancer survivor, dedicated countless hours to attending survivor meetings, sharing her understanding and providing encouragement and compassion to those experiencing the same challenges.

She is survived by her adoring husband and their two children, Jane Jensen and her husband Bob, John Paul Griffin Jr. and his wife Tammy; two grandsons, John Beville and his wife Christy, John Paul "Jake" Griffin III and his wife Kate; a great-grandson, Mason Beville; step-grandchildren, Brian Jensen, Jennifer Nutley; several step-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

Rettsy will always be remembered as a fierce protector of her family and friends whom she considered herself beyond blessed to have. She will be deeply missed by all who had the chance to know and love her.

Services will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein, Newnam Funeral home in Centreville Maryland Wednesday, July 27th, 2022 at noon. A visitation will be held 2 hours prior from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.at the funeral home. Interment to follow at Church Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Church Hill United Methodist Church, PO Box 155, Church Hill, MD 21623.

Cemetery Details

Church Hill Cemetery

Cemetery Road
Church Hill, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Service

JUL 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 25, 2022 at 02:48 PM

NL

Beautiful life and memories. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Norma Mears Lord - July 26, 2022 at 11:38 AM



“ *Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

RJ

“ Rachel And Edward Lockwood Jr lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Rachel and Edward Lockwood Jr - July 28, 2022 at 08:59 PM

JS

“ Today was the celebration of Life for "Rettsy" Griffin. What a precious child of God she was, even her minister was tearful. We all have a dash in our life's. "Rettsy's" dash was full of love, a good family, good neighbors, good friends, good times and most important her love for Christ. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Jean Spence

JEAN SPENCE - July 27, 2022 at 07:11 PM

JE

“ Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Jo Ann Edwards - July 27, 2022 at 04:13 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin.



July 27, 2022 at 07:31 AM

PC

“ *Such a lovely lady with so much love to share. Will miss her smiles, her hugs, her mischief. I am hearing "Let there be peace on earth", "Because He Lives", and "How Great Thou Art" on a loop in my head. Prayers for the family - God Speed Rettsy - love you - Pam And Dunc*

pamela covington - July 26, 2022 at 10:56 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin.*



July 26, 2022 at 09:12 AM

BH

“ *Brenda Hahn lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Brenda Hahn - July 26, 2022 at 07:53 AM

JS

“ I loved "Rettsy" and I love Jack. The town of Church Hill was very Blessed to have such a wonderful couple living there, who were like Ambassadors, caring and sharing for everyone. I became friends with "Rettsy" in the 1990's and we were like sisters, reaching out to others who were on their breast cancer journey. "Rettsy" gave hope to a lot of people. "Rettsy" shared love and laughter here on earth and I am sure that Heaven is just a little bit better with her there. Prayers to her family, Love, Jean Spence

Jean Spence - July 25, 2022 at 03:24 PM

AE

“ A true Christian Lady- a child of God. She was an angel on this earth to all who knew and loved her. I don't believe she ever met a stranger. Our friendship began over 20 years ago - and I was always excited to see her and talk with her. She always made me feel at home, and cared for- never heard an unkind word from her. May God's angels wrap their wings around the family and hold you tight. Mrs Rhetts was an amazing lady who will not be forgotten. Hugs and prayers to her family.



Andrea Edwards - July 25, 2022 at 11:45 AM

BW

“ Barb Wyman lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Barb Wyman - July 25, 2022 at 11:41 AM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



June Clark - July 25, 2022 at 11:01 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin.



July 25, 2022 at 10:35 AM

DJ

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Miss Rettsy's family. I am sure going to miss this spunky lady. Those Sunday morning hugs and kisses at church will be missed. She did love everyone she met. I know you're up there in heaven singing at the top of your lungs "Let There Be Peace on Earth".....I love you Miss Rettsy....rest in peace

Dawn Jones - July 25, 2022 at 10:18 AM

NW

“ Nicky & Connie Wood lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Nicky & Connie Wood - July 25, 2022 at 09:35 AM

CW

Rettsy and I were always "Room Mothers" at Church Hill Elementary School. Always enjoyed talking to her!

Connie Wood - July 25, 2022 at 09:37 AM

PH

“ *Phil And Joyce Hurlock lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Phil and Joyce Hurlock - July 25, 2022 at 09:05 AM

PH

A precious soul, the kindest lady, the greatest hugs! She will truly be missed by many. We have been neighbors for many years; next door when Stevie (she still called him that) was growing up, she would always call out the window to him "come over and get a teacake". They were right out of the oven & he would come back across the driveway grinning from ear to ear. Now across the street, still close enough to be considered neighbors. Will miss her walking by and sitting in her window waving. To all the family, we are truly sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to each of you. Hold on to those memories.

Phil and Joyce Hurlock - July 25, 2022 at 09:13 AM

KN

“ *Kerry Nagle lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Kerry Nagle - July 25, 2022 at 06:17 AM



“ Iris Carter lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Iris Carter - July 25, 2022 at 12:09 AM



“ Rettsie in my salon after a haircut...she Always told me I was like a daughter to her...along with many stories of the kids she loved and took care of...they know who they are....I love you Rets, and will Miss our salon talks and tight hugs before you left. I will cherish the memories always! Rest in Peace Rets..until we meet again. 🙏❤️



Roxanne Keefer-Lambden - July 24, 2022 at 06:27 PM



“ Love, Roxanne and Tom Lambden purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin.



Love, Roxanne and Tom Lambden - July 24, 2022 at 06:09 PM

DB

“ Diane Calloway Baxter lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



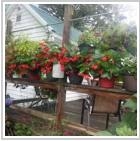
Diane Calloway Baxter - July 24, 2022 at 01:41 PM

MD

“ Matthew, Roxanne, Dylan And Trevor Dean lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Matthew, Roxanne, Dylan and Trevor Dean - July 24, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Sherrie Jacobs - July 23, 2022 at 06:20 PM

PC

“ When we thought of Church Hill we thought of "Miss"Rettsy...so sorry for your loss,she will be missed.



Peggy and Mike Clough - July 23, 2022 at 03:43 PM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - July 23, 2022 at 03:08 PM

GP

What a great lady that has gained her angel wings. It was always a pleasure to see her and chat. She was surely an icon in Church Hill and was loved by so many. Prayers and blessings to the family at this time and hold onto the wonderful memories. God Bless, Gene and Lynda Palmatary

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - July 23, 2022 at 03:10 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Rettsy Was A Mother To All Of Us Growing Up In Church Hill! Always Had A Kind Word And With Her Continued Faith Sincerely Cared About All People! She Was Angel!!

Marion Chance - July 23, 2022 at 12:56 PM

BA

“ So sorry for the families loss of a very sweet, nice lady. She always had a kind word and took time to speak to you. Thoughts and Prayers for the family at this difficult time.
Albert & Barbara



Barbara L Allen - July 23, 2022 at 12:54 PM

MF

“ *Marty Freeman lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Marty Freeman - July 23, 2022 at 09:42 AM

BH

“ *Billy & Dorothy Hollingsworth lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



billy & dorothy hollingsworth - July 23, 2022 at 09:35 AM

BN

“ *Barbara K Nelson lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin*



Barbara k Nelson - July 23, 2022 at 09:28 AM

BL

“ *Billy Pinder and Nancy Lane purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin.*



Billy Pinder and Nancy Lane - July 23, 2022 at 08:56 AM

PM

“ Patricia Mayer lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Patricia Mayer - July 23, 2022 at 08:54 AM

TM

“ Tina Mayr lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Tina Mayr - July 23, 2022 at 07:24 AM

DS

“ Donnie And Sara lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Donnie and Sara - July 23, 2022 at 06:50 AM

BC

“ Butch And Sally Coursey lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Butch and Sally Coursey - July 23, 2022 at 01:38 AM

SM

“ Stacey Morris lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Stacey Morris - July 22, 2022 at 11:31 PM

DH

“ Donna Hollett lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Donna Hollett - July 22, 2022 at 08:54 PM

CH

“ Christy Higgs lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Christy Higgs - July 22, 2022 at 08:07 PM

MS

“ I will cherish all my special memories I have with Mom Rhett 💕



Mandy Snyder - July 22, 2022 at 07:35 PM

TC

“ Tina, Fang And Scott Campbell lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Tina, Fang and Scott Campbell - July 22, 2022 at 07:18 PM

JL

“ John Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



John Larrimore - July 22, 2022 at 06:22 PM

DS

“ Debbie Scott lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Debbie Scott - July 22, 2022 at 06:15 PM

JS

“ Janet Seward lit a candle in memory of Aretta M. "Rettsy" Griffin



Janet Seward - July 22, 2022 at 04:12 PM