



Valorie Joyce Phelps

May 22, 2022

Valorie Joyce Phelps, aged 78, of Trappe, died on May 22, 2022 from complications of Covid and Lewy Body Dementia. Raised on Joyce Lane in Arnold, she was the daughter of Dr. Osler C. Joyce, a Baltimore dentist, and Dorothy Hoffmeister, a homemaker and state employee.

Early in life, Valorie attended Wroxeter-on-the-Severn School, and later transferred to Severna Park High, where she was proud to be part of one of the first graduating classes. She went on to earn an associates degree at Anne Arundel Community College. While she always dreamed of being a professional private investigator, she settled for a career with AT&T and the Bell System. Her inquisitive and talkative nature served her well in the Long Lines Division, where she offered customer support to airlines. She was based in the ARINC building in Annapolis, except for that one summer in 1971 where she traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to work through the C.W.A. strike.

After 20 years of work and one child later, she retired and moved with her husband to the Eastern Shore, often joking she was now trapped in Trappe. She then began spending her time in just about every social club in the Mid-Shore area. You could count her in to attend all social events where she could meet new people or see old friends, even being fond of funerals, despite not wanting one of her own. Wherever Valorie went she was always able to find a personal connection to someone new.

Valorie has been described as a walking library of peoples' histories, knowing everything about everybody. This made her a natural introducer, always wanting to connect people and get them together. She was well known for offering a helping hand to anyone and was always willing to lend her advice without being asked. She could be the best friend you ever or never wanted and was good at keeping us on our toes. Muttering "Jesus Christ, Valorie," with a shake of a head, was a common response to her being in your life. She was truly one-of-a-kind.

She was fond of traditional etiquette, often sending hand-written letters, giving many gifts, and keeping up what she'd call "proper" appearances. She loved to get dressed up for any formal or fun occasion and was known for her unique style. She was a firm believer that a dinner was only complete if it had a side of stewed tomatoes, lima beans, and dinner rolls. In her later years, Valorie continued to check in on her elderly friends, shared family stories and genealogy, and remembered her life on Joyce Lane vividly.

Valorie is survived by her endlessly tolerant and patient husband of 48 years, Richard F. Phelps III and their only, Joyce Phelps. Valorie is preceded in death by her parents, beloved brother "Chip" Joyce of Arnold and family friend, "Mike" Mann of Stevensville. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Valorie's name to the Talbot County Woman's Club or the Mid-Shore Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. In accordance with her wishes, and to spite her child, there will be no service. If you wish to visit her she will be reunited with her beloved family at the Asbury United Methodist Church cemetery in Arnold, MD. The family encourages you to leave memories here on her tribute wall and enjoy the Tribute Video featuring pictures of her life, posted in the Photos & Videos section on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Valorie Joyce Phelps*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - May 26, 2022 at 03:43 PM

JO

Valorie I hardly knew you.

I never had the good fortune to meet this young lady in this life but It seems as if I knew her. I heard such good things about her life and times from her good friend. Now she has crossed into a different realm and made the transition that we all must make where the continuous pain, suffering and discomfort of this life can be no more. For that, I know her family and friends are grateful that she is now pain free and waiting on the other shore along side her family that went before her. May God bless Valorie, Joyce and Frank and all of Valorie 's friends during the days ahead as they attempt to cope with the loss of Valorie.

John - May 27, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *Valorie Joyce Phelps*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Valorie Joyce Phelps*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Valorie Joyce Phelps*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Beth Hurley Foxwell lit a candle in memory of Valorie Joyce Phelps*



Beth Hurley Foxwell - June 08, 2022 at 07:42 AM



“ *Valorie was always so thoughtful and sweet to myself and my boys. Her well thought out themed care packages were the best! My kiddos were always so excited to see what cousin Valorie sent. I hung onto many of her cards and letters over the years as she would include bits of our family history, in addition to her kind words. She will be missed! Lots of love to you 'Cousin Valorie' as she always called herself :)*

Alicia Currier - June 05, 2022 at 11:14 PM

RE

“ Having just driven to Sev. Pk recently, and passing Joyce Lane, I had thought to get in touch. Valorie and I worked together when she was at AT&T and I was at ARINC. We lost contact after I left in 1980, but occasionally ran into each other on the Shore and stopped for a chat.

I remember we used to talk about my daughter, before Joyce was even a twinkle, as they say, and she would ask me surprising questions. She was meticulous in every way, clothes, nails, hair, work files (!!!), and I expect she maintained her private life in much the same way.

I am so sorry to learn of her medical difficulties (in addition to the glaucoma), and the strain that must have put on her family. Thank you for writing such an amazing obituary and attaching that wonderful photograph. I will always remember her, alongside others from my ARINC days, with fondness. All my sympathy and warm regards, Regina Moore

Regina - May 30, 2022 at 12:53 PM

CT

I am sending my love to Frank and Joyce. I am so sorry for your loss, my dear friend Valorie. We met in late 1962. The Hansen family had just returned from Okinawa. Betty Thompson, of AT&T, Annapolis, introduced us. We became fast friends, and Valorie taught me Maryland history. I said “ this will be my home state. Being an Air Force brat, we kept traveling, . Valorie and I always stayed in touch. She was always helping her childhood friends, neighbors, anyone. I admired her communication skills. I am so sad for the many health issues she had, over the years. Frank & Joyce were always there, trying to make the best plan, for her comfort. I am lucky for a 60 year friendship. Valorie, rest, be at peace. What a beautiful tribute from Joyce and Frank. God Bless, Cecilia Hansen Thiel

cecilia thiel - May 30, 2022 at 01:26 PM

SS

“ Dear Frank and Joyce, We are so sad to hear of Valorie’s death. Her death leaves a big empty place in your lives and in the lives of all of us who knew. May she Rest In Peace. ❤️ Sharon Serio and Ken Lyons

Sharon Serio - May 29, 2022 at 01:17 PM

PF

“ Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Valorie Joyce Phelps



Phil Foster - May 29, 2022 at 04:25 AM

AL

“ Valorie was indeed one of a kind. I'll always remember meeting her. She was prepared with 101 questions to ask me about my life; she wanted to know about my partner, my parents, my upbringing, my pets, what I did for work, what I like to eat. She just needed to be in the know. I think she truly saw herself as a social butterfly, flitting from person to person and often stirring the pot. I was happy to humor her and hope she got all the answers she was looking for. After losing my grandmom to dementia, I knew Valorie's battle would be tough, so I've been rooting for her behind the scenes. I also know losing her will impact her friends and family, but I hope there is some peace in knowing that she's now at rest and is not suffering. And I hope for her sake, she's been reunited with her brother and mom. Sending lots of love to you, Frank & Joyce! <3

Allison - May 27, 2022 at 09:55 AM

AW

“Serendipitous is the perfect word to sum up my friendship with “Valorie Joyce from Joyce Lane”. Valorie grew up with my grandmother, Joanie (Dobson) Whiteley and my late great uncle Frank Dobson. I had just started working at the funeral home when I met Valorie at a funeral that she attended in Centreville. She recognized my name tag, and ever since we maintained a special friendship. She would send me her favorite obituaries that she cut out from the weekly paper and tell me stories about my great grandmother Estelle and crazy Uncle Frank. She taught me how to prepare a tea for hosting girlfriends and how to network with people. As a chapter of my life closes and I finish mortuary school, I also say goodbye to such an influential woman in my career. I credit her for igniting my passion as a young person starting off in the funeral industry. I will always do my best to make her proud by following my heart and serving others. Valorie Joyce from Joyce Lane, I will never forget you and you will be dearly missed. Love, Ashley Estelle Whiteley

Ashley Estelle Whiteley - May 26, 2022 at 06:34 PM

JO

Thank you

Joyce - August 24, 2022 at 11:36 PM