



## Bernardine Shampo

May 8, 1946 - January 16, 2021

PRINCETON - "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on..." (Irving Berlin)  
Bernardine Carol Blankenship Shampo, nee Thomas of Princeton, WV, our beloved mother, grandmother, abuela, great grandmother, and sister after a long illness entered eternal rest on a wintery snowy afternoon at her home surrounded by loved ones on Saturday, January 16, 2021.

Born on May 8, 1946 at her maternal grandparents' home in Kegley, West Virginia the eldest child of the late Bernard A. Thomas Sr. and late G. Estelle Thomas Kirk, nee Harrison. Bernardine married her childhood sweetheart the late Daniel J. Blankenship Sr. Shortly after marrying they began their new life in Brandywine, MD. Tragedy struck a few years later leaving Bernardine a young widow with two young sons, Jack and Michael with a third son Kevin on the way. Her second marriage ending in divorce produced two additional beautiful children James and Stacey. Being widowed young gave her strength and perseverance and cemented the importance of strong family unity. Deciding to return to West Virginia to raise her five children and further her education she faced a cancer diagnosis in her late 20's. Bernardine went on to become a nurse in Labor and Delivery at Princeton Community Hospital, retiring in 2011 after 28 years of service. Happily, she saw many of the babies she cared for grow into adulthood and on to having their own babies. An extraordinary cook and a gifted and talented seamstress Bernardine learned to sew, crochet, knit and quilt as a young girl from her mother. Bernardine

really enjoyed teaching and passing on her passion for such handiwork to her daughter and granddaughters. She enjoyed sewing her own scrubs and even those of her coworkers. She even made most of the Barbie and Ken doll clothing for a younger sister and her only daughter. Upon retirement Bernardine continued to use her sewing skills to help her dear friend Kim Hicks owner of Scrubs & More ready uniforms for nursing students from Mercer, McDowell and Summers counties. Bernardine happily made many memories with her children and grandchildren on family vacations to the beaches of South Carolina, Florida and Costa Rica. Another passion was her furry family and exotic bird family. She rescued many over the years providing for care and finding forever homes for abandoned and feral felines.

Bernardine was preceded in death by her husband Danny; mother and stepfather Estelle Thomas Kirk and Robert Kirk, father Bernard Thomas Sr., and brother Bernard 'Sonny' Thomas Jr., her maternal grandparents Luther Harrison and Gladys Harrison Burgess, step grandfather Cecil Burgess, paternal grandparents Nathan and Mae Thomas.

She is survived by the loves of her life her sons and their wives Jack Blankenship of Woodruff, SC, Michael (Cindy) Blankenship of Draper, VA, Kevin (Darla) Blankenship of Princeton, WV, James (Karen) Shampo of Lincolnton, NC and her daughter Stacey Shampo of Princeton, WV. Grandchildren, Nicole and Emma Blankenship of Twin Lakes, WI, Michael Blankenship Jr. of Dublin, VA, Christopher (Sara) Blankenship of Pulaski, VA, Briana (Cody) Linkous of Dublin, VA, Tim (Jessica) Doty of Athens, WV, Tabitha (Michael Wilson) Blankenship of Huntington, WV, Andrea Blankenship of Morgantown, WV, Joshua Shampo of Myrtle Beach, SC, Katlin Shampo of Princeton, WV, Haley (A.J.) Jenkins of Hudson, NC, Abigail Shampo of Lincolnton, NC, Ale Salas of Gastonia, NC and Nathalia Salas of Costa Rica and 14 great grandchildren with one on the way. She is also survived by her younger sisters Elaine Browne of FL, Deborah (Sam) Igal of Princeton, WV

and Paula (Gary) Sowers of Riverdale, MD and more than 20 nephews and nieces. Friends Natasha Johnston and Kayla Kline who were like family and provided friendship, love and support.

A special thank you to the nurses, aides and interdisciplinary team of Amedisys Hospice Care of Bluefield, WV who assisted and provided spiritual counseling to Stacey in the care of her mother allowing her to remain in her home.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 25, 2021 at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with Pastor C.T. Lilly officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton. COVID-19 masks and social distancing protocols will be in place.

The family will receive friends Sunday, January 24, 2021 from 4-5 p.m. at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. To view a video tribute to Mrs. Shampo, or share condolences with the family, please visit [www.bailey-kirk.com](http://www.bailey-kirk.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Gardens

450 Courthouse Road  
Princeton, WV 24740

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 24.** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home  
1612 Honaker Avenue  
Princeton, WV 24740  
(304) 425-8176  
info@bailey-kirk.com  
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 25.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home  
1612 Honaker Avenue  
Princeton, WV 24740  
(304) 425-8176  
info@bailey-kirk.com  
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernardine Shampo*



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**Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home** - January 24, 2021 at 03:55 PM

DB

*What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful person. I'm so sorry I couldn't be there today but you know how much I loved you...gone but never ever forgotten 💔💔*

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**Debbie Burge** - January 25, 2021 at 11:30 PM

AP

*She was a gentle loving soul..who overcome much heartache and disappointment..an inspiration I'm sure to her children grandchildren and great grandchildren..she deserved to always be honored and cherished..Rest in Peace Beautiful one*

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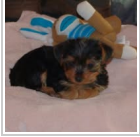
**a person of her past** - March 17, 2022 at 04:48 PM



“ *Bernardine Shampo*

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December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ So sad to hear of Bernadine's death. We all know she is in a better place. Worked and knew her through PCH. She was a special, one of a kind nurse and person. RIP Bernie. Love you.



Norma Mckinney - February 11, 2021 at 10:48 AM



“ Mike, Cindy and family,  
God bless and be with each of you. Our hearts and prayers are for comfort and love through these coming days. We love each of you and are here always.  
Love and prayers,  
The Shepherds and Pifers

Debbie Pifer - January 24, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ Deborah Igal purchased the Garden Accent - "My Mother kept a garden..." for the family of Bernardine Shampo.



Deborah Igal - January 23, 2021 at 03:18 PM

DE

“ My dear beautiful sister. Deenie, our bond is strong and runs deeply. I will miss you immensely. You were close to 12 yrs. old when I was born. You were my protector; you nurtured and mothered me when I was young and became a best friend as I grew into adulthood. You took a lot on your shoulders as a young girl when mom had to go to work to provide for herself and her 4 children. As a young teen you kept the house clean, cooked meals, sewed clothing, bathed and yes even disciplined us. Mom didn't have to worry about us being safe & well cared for-she left us in very dependable & loving hands-yours. I was very attached to you and was in love with Danny. So attached that mom often said there were 2 reasons she moved Sonny, Elaine & me to MD when I was 3 yrs. old. First it was a safe haven for her to raise us but she said mostly because I was devastated when you & Danny moved to MD.

Sam & I moved to WV from Colorado to be closer to mom & Paula's family in MD and to be close to our WV family. Our daughter Lissa said God sent me back to WV because He had other plans for you. Your remaining time on earth was to be short as was our mom's.

The miles that separated us melted away and we reconnected. We spent time together over coffee reminiscing and bringing each other current. We both shared our great love for our furry and feathered family members with one another. You answered questions I had about memories from my toddler years. They were real...the good and the not so good. The not so good--you comforted and calmed my fears making me feel safe. The good were many--you wrapping your arms around me, laying on our shared bed comforting me after my little fingers got caught in the rollers of the wringer washer.

Lifting me up, placing me in an apple tree to pluck green un-ripened apples. My favorite to eat with salt. Later in MD this habit of climbing apple trees would get me in trouble with you. The boys & I would sit underneath the tree with your salt shaker eating the green sour apples. Eating corn on the cob while dangling our legs off the side of the porch. And yes, we had a goat. Bittersweet memories from Clinton, MD with you and Danny before his life was cut short with Leukemia. I spent my summer vacations and every school break with you before and after his passing. Your boys, my nephews were

*more like my younger brothers. We played outdoors and got dirty together. You'd pick me placing me on the washing machine so you could scrub my feet clean. Something you'd tease me about years later because I didn't like getting dirty. You'd scape together a dollar, pile the 3 boys in their oversized baby carriage and we'd walk what seemed a great distance to cross the highway to buy a dozen hamburgers. Good and lovely memories.*

*When I was 12 you remarried and soon after moved away to Massachusetts, then on to California and Arizona. The night you all dropped by to say goodbye I bawled like a baby. But we then became pen pals to stay in touch. When you returned to WV to raise your children, mom, Paula and I would drive 'down' every 3 day holiday to 'visit'. More fun & lovely memories made with you all. Bernardine, I'm so very happy for these last 2 yrs. Sam & I were able to go out for dinners with you & Stacey and some family gatherings with you at Darla & Kevin's. We made the most of our one on one time together as sisters, whether over coffee at your kitchen table, going for our monthly girls day out at the hair salon with lunch afterwards or sneaking a twist ice cream cone instead. Bernardine, I will forever carry all the memories with me - the not so happy, the sad but most of all the happy lovely memories. I love you and will carry you in my heart and thoughts until we meet up in heaven. oox, Debbie (a/k/a Squirt & Runt)*

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**Debbie** - January 23, 2021 at 02:49 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Bernardine Shampo.*



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January 23, 2021 at 11:21 AM

DB

“ I remember when Janet Snow told me about Bernie & she was hoping to get position of LPN in nursery. We became friends fast & she ended up being the greatest nursery nurse. I'm sure her kids knew this but she would come in & say one of my kids is pregnant because I dreamed about a person who died. It was uncanny how she was right over 90% of the time. 😊 Then she would say I'll be sewing a blanket soon & I know all her grandkids got one. She loved her family so much & I admired her so much. With 5 children she continued her education & became one of the best nurses I worked with. When a neurological disease disabled me from nursing she said she wanted to take me to Duke & she did for many years! We never ran out of things to talk about and we laughed & said if we ever had to go to a “home” it'd be in FL, beach view with all young male nurses! That they'd say we were old & didn't realize we pinched them or say can you pick up my glasses? Haha. I remember I had a kitten & she babysat her for me. I loved that cat so much & called Bernie about every night to check on her & Ag had such a good time she hissed @ me when I picked her up. She had a picture of her when she got in her knitting bag & had a coffee mug made for Christmas. I'll always cherish it! Guess I'm rambling Bernie but you know I'm really bad about that. But I'm upset I can't come in & say I'll see you later. One thing I know is that neither of us wanted to lose our independence. We talked about it a lot. I'm so sad you're gone but I'm happy you're not in pain & you can walk without every step hurting. I love you and feel so blessed to have had you as my friend❤️❤️

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Debbie Burge - January 22, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernardine Shampo.*



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January 22, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ *Years ago, like 40 years ago, Bernadine opened her home and took me in to give me a chance to save money to get a place and start out my adult life. I can't remember how long I was there. I ended up going back to Mullens.*

*I got to know her through her son Jack. We worked at KFC and she would pick Jack up from work. When she found out I was walking a few blocks to get home, she insisted that I let her drop me off. We became friends. Bernadine was so very kind and gracious to me. I made a few sporadic visits over the years and when we filled the coffee cups and had our smokes it was like no time had passed since we last saw one another.*

*In spite of my hard headedness, she taught me quite a bit.*

*Thanks to Jack, Micheal, Kevin, James, and Stacey for the time you shared your Mom and home with me. My heart hurts.*

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**Elsa Colston** - January 22, 2021 at 01:53 PM



“ *My husband and I were friends with Bernadine and Danny in Maryland. Danny and I went to school together in Princeton. We lost touch with Bernadine after Danny died. I often thought of her and wondered where she lived. So sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful person and loved all the children.*

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**Peggy mitchell** - January 22, 2021 at 12:36 PM

FH

“ *Jack, Sheree and Emma,  
Please know you are being remembered in love and prayers.  
May God hold you gently and keep you strong.  
Love ya,  
Freda Hinkley*

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**Freda Hinkley** - January 22, 2021 at 10:14 AM

RR

“ *Robert and Dana Ratcliffe purchased the Medium  
Dish Garden for the family of Bernardine  
Shampo.*



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**Robert and Dana Ratcliffe** - January 22, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of  
Bernardine Shampo.*



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January 21, 2021 at 11:51 PM

AM

“ I am so sorry you have lost your beautiful mother, grandmother, great grandmother & sister. There are no words to ease the pain in your heart but I pray the wonderful memories you cherish will soon ease some of the heartache. Bernie, as those at work called her, and I worked together for many years at PCH. She was a wonderful, competent and dependable nurse who loved working the most with those precious nursery babies. She was always kind and pleasant, a true joy to work with. A precious soul that I'm so glad was part of my life for so many years. My condolences to the family.  
Anita (Webb) Myers

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Anita (Webb) Myers - January 21, 2021 at 04:09 PM