



Cleone (Toni) Blankenship

November 30, 1925 - August 3, 2018

GREENSBORO, NC – Cleone (Toni) Reetz Blankenship, 92, of Greensboro, NC, formerly of Matoaka, died Friday, August 3, 2018. Born November 30, 1925 in Bloomfield, NE, she was the daughter of the late Jay R. Reetz and Carrie Olson Reetz.

Mrs. Blankenship was a member of Ashworth Memorial United Methodist Church in Matoaka where she taught children and youth Sunday school for over 30 years. She also served on several boards and committees of the church over the years. She was a member of the Laura Wheeler Wesleyan Guild until she became a member of the UMW. She attended Knox County Grade School and was a 1942 graduate of Bloomfield High School. She attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and taught at country schools. She enjoyed gardening and flower arranging and was a member of the Matoaka Garden Club. She was also a member of the PTA and Mercer County Democrat Women. She enjoyed volunteering for many groups, reading, and flea marketing with her husband. She cared for her mother during her last 17 years until her death at age 102, then cared for her husband until his death. She was the first woman appointed to the WV Medical Licensing Board, appointed by Jay Rockefeller as a lay member.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband, Claude Blankenship; son, Jay Blankenship; and sister, Ziola Reetz Herzog.

Survivors include daughter, Sandra Palmer and husband Terry of Greensboro, NC; two grandchildren, Erica Palmer and husband Craig Bowyer of Greensboro, NC and Bret Palmer of Mayodan, NC; and four great grandchildren, Margaret Bowyer, Andrew Bowyer, Jay Palmer-Bowyer and Finnley Palmer-Bowyer.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with the Rev. David Damewood officiating.

In accordance with Mrs. Blankenship's wishes, the body will be cremated and a private burial will be at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to SECU Family House, 1970 Baldwin Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. To view a video tribute to Mrs. Blankenship, or share condolences with the family, please visit www.bailey-kirk.com.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens

450 Courthouse Road
Princeton, WV 24740

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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

AUG 8. 11:00 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 Cleone (Toni) Blankenship*



Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home - August 08, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ *Cleone (Toni) Blankenship*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. She was always very nice to me.*
Gregory Burnette

Dr. Gregory K. Burnette - August 10, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ *Kelly Norris lit a candle in memory of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship*



Kelly Norris - August 10, 2018 at 08:45 AM



“ *My fondest memories of aunt Toni will always be her million dollar smile. She is one of the those rare people that will always put you at ease. May her memory be eternal!*

Zach Fara - August 09, 2018 at 01:44 PM

KM

“ Kim & Steve McIntyre purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship.



Kim & Steve McIntyre - August 08, 2018 at 05:54 PM

CO

“ I LOVED her!!! One of my favorite memories is her at the July 4th celebration at my house. I remember how she LOVED the gathering and the fireworks. She was a PRECIOUS lady!!! Love and prayers for you Sandi J, Terry, Erica and Brett. You KNOW you are some of my favorite people!!!!

Cathy Oakes - August 07, 2018 at 09:39 PM

DC

“ Toni and Claude--two of the finest and most wonderful people I have ever known. When Claude died I remember my mom, Esther Syres, telling Toni: "We have lost a good one". And now with Toni's death, the earth is diminished again. She was the epitome of elegance, grace, intelligence, kindness, and caring. Her words brought great comfort to me when my mom passed. I hope the respect and love with which Toni was regarded will bring great comfort to your family. So sorry that major surgery prevented me from paying my respects personally. Many prayers and much love are coming your way.

Always,

Debbie Syres Clark

Deborah Clark - August 07, 2018 at 09:08 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship.



August 07, 2018 at 12:17 PM

SF

“ Sandy & Neil, Raymie, Barb & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship.



Sandy & Neil, Raymie, Barb & Family - August 07, 2018 at 11:14 AM

BR

“ I remember Toni as always smiling and friendly to everyone. I know you will miss her and the light she brought into your life. My thoughts are with you and your family. I have been gone from Matoaka for many years, Ashworth Memorial.
Brenda Shrewsbury Rainey

Brenda Rainey - August 07, 2018 at 10:46 AM

TL

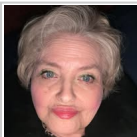
“ So sorry for your loss--Toni was an inspiration to many--one of the most elegant, beautiful, and pleasant ladies ever--she was a board member at Bluestone Health during my employment there and a long time friend of my family--my father, Fred Leslie, always spoke so highly of Toni and Claude--spread your wings and fly high, Sweet Angel!❤️❤️❤️

Teresa Leslie-Sangid - August 07, 2018 at 09:24 AM

PC

“ I am so sorry for your loss.....I have been away from the Matoaka area for a lot of years, however I remember Toni very well.....Patsy Jones Carnahan

Patsy Carnahan - August 07, 2018 at 06:13 AM



“ I remember her as always a prim and proper lady. I attended school with her son Jay. Very nice family. Well respected. God bless her family who are left to cherish her memories.



Bonnie Coleman - August 07, 2018 at 04:32 AM

CN

“ Claudia and Bob Nesbit purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship.



Claudia and Bob Nesbit - August 07, 2018 at 01:18 AM

CN

“ Sandi and family,

Toni was truly a wonderful lady, always smiling and so sweet. It was a blessing to live across the street from her and seeing her cheery face. We were all so close just walking into each other's houses for a chat or a cup of sugar. I can hear her (and Ruby) now calling to my mom as they walked in any time of day. She was a bright light in my life and so many others.

Claudia Karnes Nesbit

Claudia Nesbit - August 07, 2018 at 12:13 AM

AR

“ Anne Rose-lyle lit a candle in memory of Cleone (Toni) Blankenship



anne rose-lyle - August 06, 2018 at 10:29 PM

NW

“ My name is Nancy Hardesty Walker, my family lived next door to Toni and Claude in Matoaka. Toni was a beautiful lady and I know she will be missed.

Nancy Walker - August 06, 2018 at 09:50 PM

BD

“ She was one of the nicest Ladies I have had the pleasure of knowing. There are many memories of growing up on Easy Street and her gentle ways!

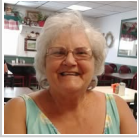
Benita Dishner - August 06, 2018 at 07:03 PM

JS

“ *Toni was beautiful inside and out. She will be missed every day.*



Jo Sizemore - August 06, 2018 at 05:41 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss*

Theda Farmer - August 06, 2018 at 05:23 PM

BS

“ *We are sorry about Mrs. Blankenship. She was a great lady and she was so supportive of my art. She was so classy and nice to everyone. She will surely be missed by everyone. Prayers for the family.*
Jerry and Bonita Sink

Bonita Sink - August 06, 2018 at 03:22 PM