



## Dorothy Helen Bradley

May 21, 1929 - November 25, 2018

Dorothy Helen Bradley (Dottie), 89, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2018. Dottie was born in Dorchester, MA on May 21, 1929. Following her graduation from Wilmington High School, she was employed by the John Hancock Insurance Co. From 1950 to 1952, she served proudly in the United States Navy, where, during her assignment in the Pentagon, she met another Yeoman, Bill Bradley, who happened to come from her hometown area. Dottie and Bill were married on February 2, 1952 and settled in Alexandria, VA where they raised seven children together. As a loving, caring, devoted wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great grandmother, Dottie took great delight in cheering and supporting her family in their many athletic events, community and charity activities. One of her favorite activities for many years was bowling, and she really enjoyed her bowling tournament adventures. Her most enjoyable leisure activity, however, was writing letters, thank you notes, and greeting cards. She maintained a yearly calendar with birthdays, events, both major and minor, and remembered her family, relatives and friends every day of each year, her whole life through.

In 2009, Dottie relocated to an independent senior living community in Cary, NC, where she enjoyed daily community activities, social outings, fitness and volunteer activities, as well as frequent visits from her family and friends. She remained a very active and very special woman throughout the entire time she lived in Cary.

She is survived by her sons, Steve Bradley, Scott Bradley (Leslie), and Pat Bradley (Michele), her daughters, Nancy Reedy, Carol Isaac (Philip), Jane Gallant, and Linda Collier (Bob), her brothers, Donald, Clifford, Roger, and Kenny, seventeen grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband, Bill, her father, Vernon, her mother, Blanche, and her brothers, John and Robert.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2018 from 2 – 5 p.m. at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel in Alexandria, VA. The burial service will take place at the Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, VA on Monday, December 17 at 11AM. Her family asks that any charitable donations made in Dottie's memory be sent to Soldiers' Angels at [soldiersangels.org](http://soldiersangels.org).

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Family

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:59 AM

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“ The right words elude me; but I want to say a Wonderful person and my “bestes” special cousin, has blessed this world and leaves it a better place. She leaves a wonderful legacy of gentle friends and adoring family. She will sorely be physically missed but in our mines and thoughts forever. We all loved and love her as she loved us. See you later Dottie. Weston and Marilyn Chase

December 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Thoughts and prayers are with the family. Know what it is like losing a loved one. Grief is a common demonator but great memories are always there and takes some of the pain away The good times had by all!!  
Yes I too remember our summers when the Bradley family would arrive at the farm and fun would begin.!!We loved having the extra hands arounds when we hayed and did chores. Never a dull moment. Good food always filled the table. Between both Moms we were always eating :)  
Know in my heart that both parents have met and now can enjoy their time once again together. And knowing both woman, they still haven't caught up on all the family news. :). Conversation never lacked between the 2 families.  
Rest in Peace my dear cousin. know you are in great company. Love you forever  
Carol Walker Sweatt

December 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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Roses and Moonlight Bouquet - December 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mom, thank you for teaching your children what unconditional love looks like. But about that favorite saying of yours, "Everything in moderation" -- you certainly overachieved on so many levels! I love you...always.

December 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ I will always remember Mrs. Bradley's warm, welcoming smile. She was one of the kindest, sweetest, and most gentle people I have ever met. Period. I spent a lot of time at the Bradley home on Wilcox Court as a teenager, and I think there are many of us who looked at it as our second home. I know I did. It was a special time, and Mrs. Bradley made us all feel special, like we were part of their family. And family was their number one priority. I remember the years of soccer games and softball games (Carol and I played together) and, without fail, seeing Mr. and Mrs. Bradley sitting on the sidelines, typically next to my own Mom and Dad, cheering the team on . . . Mrs. Bradley in her own quiet way, Mr. Bradley in his own not-so-quiet way! To the entire Bradley family, I know you know what a special Mom, Grandmom, and Great-Grandmom you had, and I hope you are comforted in knowing how much she was loved and cared about by so many people outside of your family. One more thing . . . She made the best chocolate chip cookies EVER!

December 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ We Hills children were blessed with super moms. Mrs. B was certainly one of those! She always had time for her children's friends. And, the Bradley home had an open door policy. I spent so much time there I think they all thought I lived there amongst the brood. (wink)

Mrs. B will be missed. I have nothing but special thoughts of her kind, gentle nature. My heart goes out to the family. The Graves are with you always.

December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ I know Dottie as Meme. She is my grandmother. My favorite memory of her from childhood was when she would come watch me play soccer. She never...ever let me live down that my first goal ever was on my own team's goal. And as an adult, having her beside me at my daughter's soccer games was completely priceless. For those of us who had the privelage...she was our biggest fan. Her support and pride in her family is a lesson in the kind of family member I wish to be. Lillian and I love you Meme. Always and forever.

December 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ I really enjoyed reading your memories of mom, Ginger. Thank you for putting a smile on my face, and a warm feeling in my heart

December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ This is the video montage that was played at the Memorial Service in Cary, North Carolina

**Dorothy Bradley Montage HD** - December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Their are many memories I have of Dot. Two that come to mind are when I was in the fourth grade a bunch of kids were chasing me in the school yard. Dot happened to be walking by & she started to chase the kids. She saved my life. The other time was when Dot married Bill. I gave her away that day and was so very proud of her. I love you Dot  
Your loving brother . Cliff.

December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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**Joyful Memory** - December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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**Lavender Reflections Spray** - December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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My deepest sympathy to all of Mrs. Bradley's family. Treasure the wonderful memories you have of her and know that she will always be watching over everyone of you. There are never any words that can help ease your pain and loss through this time but remember she raised a loving and caring family that will continue on in her memory which will be her greatest tribute.

December 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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Such a kind lady she will be missed she loved to go on the bus at woodland terrace every time it went out and walk around the pond and do crossword when she would walk around the lake love miss your brownies and candy out side your door of your apartment

**Heart** - December 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers to the entire family and all of her friends at Woodland Terrace. It has been several years since I have seen her; while visiting Susan in NC we all went to lunch. Time seemed to have picked up where it left off many years ago. Growing up, I never thought of Mrs. Bradley other than my best friend, Linda’s mom. She was always home, unless she was out bowling. If she was home and you were really lucky, the smell of Toll House Cookies greeted you as you walked through the door. Years ago, I picked up a Tupperware container at a yard sale, just like the one Mrs. Bradley would store her delicious cookies in; funny mine never tasted quite like hers. I feel it is only fitting to pay tribute to her on “National Cookie Day” not only for those delicious cookies but for all of her accomplishments in her life. I have read and heard first- hand about her Navy days and much more. Living on Wilcox, you were very fortunate to have a friend your age and with that went their mom. It is now, when we are much older that we realize what wonderful women all these moms were and that they accomplished many things in their lives, not just being there for all of us when we skinned our knees during a kickball game at top of the court, dealing with hundreds of caterpillars are released in the street or watching us until our mom came home. I remember all the times she cheered Linda and I on at our softball games and of course all of us at swim meets. I am sure all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren have experienced what so many of us were lucky enough to receive from this remarkable woman when we were kids. When I was a little girl, my mom use to tell me that thunder was God bowling or moving furniture. The next time I hear thunder I will smile and think; Hey, Mrs. Bradley is bowling with God!

December 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ So Sorry to hear of Dottie's passing. Fondest memory is she and her family visiting us at the farm. The family members equaled ours so everyone had a playmate.  
God Bless,  
Joyce (Walker) Enos

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have been blessed to have mom living a half mile away for the last 10 years at Woodland Terrace (a senior living community), where we honored her with a celebration service yesterday. It's hard to put into words how much joy I have received from watching her blossom there! She had so many friends, signed up for almost every outing, participated in exercise classes, volunteered for the Friendship Committee and others ... which explains why, if you tried calling her and got her voicemail, she was hardly ever in her apartment :)  
One of my fondest memories from growing up right up until her passing is our many Scrabble games. We often enjoyed playing with my sons after a Sunday dinner -- she taught us The Art of Losing Gracefully :)  
Until we meet again ... I love you, mom!

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ My mother-in-law raised more than just her seven kids. She had a host of neighborhood kids in and out of her home and I was lucky to be one of them. She was a second mom to me and my memories of her go back years and years. I particularly remember a time in high school when senior pictures were a big deal and she gave me a compliment on my smile I'll never forget. She didn't know it then but it made such a huge difference to me. One summer while at the beach with the Bradley clan I was stung on the stomach by a jelly fish and she calmly took care of that miserable sting all the while assuring me it would go away. She was like that. She was a quiet strength with a formidable spirit. She was a loyal and avid supporter at all of our sporting events and in later years a wonderful, wonderful mother-in-law. She smiled a lot and was always going somewhere right up until the end. I can only hope to embody that spirit as I grow older. Keep walking Mrs. B in heaven and in our hearts. You are much loved!

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Mom had so many beautiful attributes. She was a quiet, kind, gentle soul who loved her family and friends. I used to laugh about how many times she would introduce me to the same people where she lived the past 10 years. She was so proud of her family and wanted all her friends to know who we were. With all the sports we participated in as children, I cannot remember a swim meet, softball game, or soccer game where she was not on the sidelines cheering us on. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was just an all-around giving person. There are no words to express how much I miss her. I love you mom! Heaven has truly gained an angel!

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ My mom was a remarkable woman. She was a strong but quiet woman who was not only an awesome mom, but also an awesome human being. The love that she showed all her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, son-in-laws, daughter-in-laws, also spilled over to all her friends and anyone she met. Words cannot express how much I will miss her, but knowing she is in heaven , I ‘m sure she will be good company for my husband Tim, who also passed recently. Love you mom! As Tim would say, “see you on the flip side”.

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ No wonder Mr. and Mrs. Bradley were friends with my Mom and Dad. Mom was born in South Boston and she left Mass. after high school (1950) to work at the Navy Yard with her cousin. Not sure when or how they all met but maybe it was the accent that felt like home.

My brothers and I were lucky. We got to hang out with the family, whiling away those hot, summer days at their house or at the neighborhood pool. Mrs. Bradley was always our first arbiter - gentle but firm, smiling at all of us as she laid down the law. (if her way didn't work, Mr. Bradley would barrel through and make sure we got the message!) They were a pair that truly exuded love, respect and good parenting. Years later, I found pictures at my own baby shower, and there was Mrs. Bradley (I still cannot bear to call them Bill and Dottie, though we became friends) in her big, hoop skirt, grinning knowingly at my mother, as Steve, her first, was just about to be a year old.

It was the example they set that made me name our son Bradley - after them and their whole wonderful family. Thank you to each of you for your loving care of your dear mother. I wish I could be with you to honor her as you say farewell - but my grandmotherly duties keep me here in Colorado.

I send each of you my condolences, love and fondest regards.

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ All of us are blessed to have known Dot Bradley. She was such a sweet and gentle soul who was like a second mom when I was in high school and in college. She always took a sincere interest in what was going on in my life and I was always grateful for her love and support. She enjoyed her family so much and was so proud of their athletic talent and all their accomplishments. My mom used to drive her to bowling and they always had fun winning game after game. If I am ever in the area, I feel a sense of warmth for great memories as I drive by Wilcox Ct. I know she is at peace with her husband and he is taking care of her. This has been a tough year for the Bradley family with yet, another loss. May this verse that has helped with the loss of my parents bring you some comfort - "To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord." Love and condolences to the entire family at this difficult time.

December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ I always had the utmost respect for Dottie. She was a very strong woman, with a very caring heart. All my memories of Dot are good and funny. Always smiling which was very contagious. You could not be around her without feeling a strong sense of family. The Bradley family would come visit us in Fremont NH in the summer time. Quite often staying for two weeks. I had the best time ever and wished that they could stay even longer. Dottie was very loved by her family far and near and will be missed very much. until we meet again with much love Marty Walker Shaw

**Bowling** - December 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM