



## Vera V. Phalen

March 10, 1927 - May 5, 2013

Vera V. Phalen

(Meemaw)

March 10, 1927 - May 5, 2013

"Meemaw" 86 of Alexandria, VA, peacefully joined our Lord in heaven on May 5, 2013. She joins her late husband, Thomas Phalen and son, Frankie. Beloved and devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and blessed friend to all who knew her. Survived by her children Susan Hendrick (Roy), Pamela Crawford (Steve), Regina Voight (Larry), and Timothy "Homer" Phalen. Survivors also include nine grandchildren: Jenni Farber (Kurt), Christi Perry (Michael), Robin Owen (Andrew), Jason Crawford, Justin Crawford (Kristin), Ryan Voight (Emily), AJ Voight, Jessica Phalen, and Rachel Meeks; thirteen great-grandchildren: Megan Farber, Andrew Farber, Joshua Farber, Emily Perry, Joseph Perry, Holly Perry, Madison Owen, Tyson Owen, Ally Owen, Lillian Crawford, Quinn Crawford, Piper Voight, and Tucker Voight.

Meemaw was a pillar within her family and her community. She was an active member of Cameron United Methodist Church. She devoted her life to caring for and raising children. She was a foster mother of over 50 children for Fairfax County. She provided childcare for her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and members of her community and beyond for over 56 years. She has touched the lives of hundreds of children and their parents over the years. She was coined "Meemaw" by one of her foster children over 30 years ago ~ this is who she was: everyone could call her "Meemaw" as she lived up to being a second mom and grandmother to all.

She served her community through Konionia, Monarch House, and New Hope~helping families who needed someone to just care. All of this, she did for so very many. She gave even when she did not have to give. Self-less was she. She fed the hungry and sheltered the homeless. She was also a Life Member of the VFW and a member of the Red Hat Society.

Vera was born and raised in West Virginia. She was one of twelve siblings. She has four surviving sisters and brothers: Mary Lou Lambert, Ann Jo Hartman, Cranston Sponaugle, Issac Sponaugle. Vera loved her family deeply and enjoyed spending time with them at their annual family reunion held in West Virginia for over 50 years. Vera cherished her nieces and nephews and her relationship with each and everyone one of them. She looked forward to birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, weddings, graduations, and the arrival of all her great-grandchildren. She did not miss an event!

Meemaw also enjoyed traveling. She has traveled to Hawaii, California, Texas, Maine, Florida, New York, and Indiana to name a few, over the years including to her recent trip to Florida in February 2013. She has also been to Malaysia, Thailand, England, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, in recent years. Even hang gliding in her seventies while in Austria.

Vera also enjoyed spending time with her dear friends, neighbors, and the ladies who made her beautiful, called her "Red"...her beauticians where she spent many Friday mornings over the years! Vera loved being outdoors and enjoyed her yard very much. If ever in the neighborhood, one knew of her house for the amazing red and pink Azalea bushes and beautiful blue Hydrangea Bushes! She was very proud of her yard and took great care of it...still gardening and tending to her roses and other flowers just last week! No matter who you were if you stopped in for a visit you always got her homemade spaghetti and sweet tea, which everyone enjoyed and looked forward too!

Vera, "Meemaw", was dear to all who knew her. She lived a long, healthy, joyful life. She loved life and everyone around her. She was a book of knowledge, a shoulder to cry on, and an ear to listen. She was spunky and feisty~ yet she was a patient, caring, giving, and gentle with also a sense of humor. Always thinking of others~especially her family whom meant the world to her. She was a proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Carried around a "brag" book and camera at all times! She had a strong faith and knew her Lord, her Savior. Jesus was waiting for Meemaw~for He knew how very much she also loves all the little children of the world!

Vera was a special gift to her family and friends. God's special angel right here on earth for all to adore. She was deeply loved and will be missed by all. Meemaw lives on in our hearts forever!

Services will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Alexandria VA. Friends and family will be received May 15, 2-4pm & 6-8pm. Funeral May 16 at 11am, burial to follow Quantico, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The Children's Inn at NIH (National Institutes of Health), 7 West Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814,

<http://www.childrensinn.org>. or to the International Justice Mission, P.O. BOX 58147, Washington, D.C. 20037-8147, or of your choice.

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Obituary Wall



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28 at 09:53 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear this. Susan and Pam, Poplar Drive will never be the same.

August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Linda and Dave Caron (nee Fiori)  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Great Aunt Vera touched many lives and will be missed.

June 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ she honored us by allowing us into her life and then broke our hearts by leaving so soon -- we forgot she was mortal.

May 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Condolences to the Phalen Family. Our mom and Vera were friends a long time and shared many moments dealing with foster children. These two women were the last of their kind in having such a big heart when it came to taking in all of those children that needed a good home. You are in our thoughts and prayers, The Maier Family

May 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Sue's Mom,  
Thank you for giving of yourself to all of us; never knowing a stranger and always a beautiful smile to greet me. You will be missed. Our deepest condolences to family and friends. Love Brenda and Ed

May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Thank you for giving selflessly for all your foster children, as I am one of them and will forever be more than grateful to you for caring/loving me for only a short period of time...I need you to know that you mattered in my life and I am so pleased I was able to meet you and introduce you to my daughter. Love to you always...your foster daughter..Amanda Caroline Griggs formerly Cyndi

May 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Vera was a dear friend. I've enjoyed her spaghetti several times, as well as many lunches after church on Sundays. I shall miss her for a very long time. Dorothy Uhlir

May 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Meemaw,  
Thank you for all the care you gave me as you foster child. You took care of me as your own. I will miss our spaghetti dinners.  
Love,  
Jeanie

May 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. May the wonderful memories of your Mom give you comfort in the days ahead.

May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ For great aunt Vera's family our thoughts and prayers are with you

May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was Vera's neighbor for a decade. I pray that this Earth may be graced with more like her. If so, what a joyful place it would be. Our family owes Vera so much. She helped to raise our children. Our deepest condolences to her family. The Lewis family( We lived across the court.)

May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Meemaw was not only my neighbor but my second Mom growing up. Every morning before school was spent on the couch watching cartoons, and after school coming and checking in with Meemaw. That watchful eye over the yard from the kitchen window. Her laugh can still be heard... You will be missed, thank you Meemaw. XO

May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Fond memories of good times together when Vera arranged a visit by Santa for the children she was caring for. Vera was very special, God Bless

May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Heavenly Father has called home one of the best friends I ever had. She was my friend, mentor, role model, advisor, shoulder to cry on, the list goes on. I would tell her "when I grow up I want to be just like you". She was well into her eighties, so active in her church, charities but most importantly her family! I'm going to miss our coffee and talks at her kitchen table telling me how to make the wrongs right. But most of all her sense of humor and beautiful smile.  
In the words of Alan Jackson....She flew up to Heaven on the wings of angels  
By the clouds and stars and passed where no one sees  
And she walks with Jesus and her loved ones waiting  
And I know she's smiling saying don't worry about me....

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Wayne and I will miss seeing Meemaw visiting Roy and Sue. But she is in a better place. And we now have another beautiful angel to watch over us and guide us.

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Vera seldom missed going to Ladies' Night Out with the women from Cameron UMC. She was always fun to be around and usually had a good story to tell. May God bless and comfort her family with wonderful memories.

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Loved my Aunt Vera, I will miss hre.

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Meemaw's tea recipe has also left a legacy for all who entered her home and now my home!!!! They all love it~my kids do not like tea unless it's Meemaw-made tea! ;) Love you Meemaw!!!!

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our heart felt condolences to the family. Meemaw was one of the most interesting ladies we have met. Energetic, well traveled, interested in everyone and everything. We will very much miss our chats and the limited time we were given to spend with her. Her love and positive influence will be eternal.

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ The thoughts of myself and my family are with you , please accept our condolences.

May 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM