



Betty Jean Nalls

January 25, 1932 - April 1, 2012

Betty Nalls was born Betty Jean Plaughter, as the middle of three daughters to Sylvia and Ward Plaughter in January, 1932. She grew up in the family house, adjacent to "Ward's Corner" store, owned and operated by her father, Ward Plaughter. "Ward's Corner" was a precursor to a modern strip mall. It had a grocery, movie theatre, auction house, slaughter house and gas station, all in one location, on the site of the current Franconia Crown gas station. It was a hallmark of the early Franconia community during the depression and World War II years, supplying nearly everything to the community. If you needed it, Ward could get it, even during the rationing years of the war. In 1952, Betty married Arthur "Buddy" Nalls and settled in their first home in Winsor Estates, off of Beulah Road. There in that tiny house, they began a family. Shortly after the birth of their first child, the family moved to a new, slightly larger home, built by Buddy, on the corner of Steinway and Beulah. There, the family remained for the next 56 years, where they raised two more sons. Betty's passions were her sons. She gave up a job as a secretary to be home for her sons. She transformed a simple house into a home for the family. She worked long hours doing laundry, cooking and cleaning. She also supported Buddy's construction business by doing payroll and invoicing, all on a manual, hand-me-down typewriter. As soon as her boys learned to read, she did her Christmas lists in shorthand, so the curious sons couldn't decipher what they everyone was receiving. The boys never did learn to read short hand. She also had a passion for horses, which she carried from her early days on

Ward's Corner. She competed in horse shows and always kept a box of ribbons she and her horses had won. One of her favorite photos was her in her riding gear, complete with riding hat, crop, boots and pants. She maintained that passion throughout her house with photos, small statues and almost anything that had to do with horse, although her actual riding days were long ago. Another passion was music and the piano. She attempted to teach her three sons the piano, but soon realized it was useless to compete with toy trucks and dirt. Her boys were not meant for the piano. She was far more successful with many other students, whom she taught in the family living room on her prized baby grand piano. Betty also took and graduated from an interior decorating and design course. She could have easily used that education professionally, but again chose to share it with family and friends. Her own home shows the touch of a talented professional. Betty's husband, Buddy, began a slow decline in health over the past several years, suffering from macular degeneration, hearing loss, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He eventually succumbed to his illnesses and passed away in the home that he built, last July, at the age of 83. He passed peacefully, within a few yards of his boyhood home. She made the personal sacrifice to ensure her sons had what they needed to become pillars of the community. Nalls Produce, Nalls Farm Market, Nalls Aviation, and Nalls Development and Investment are all testament to her and Buddy's guidance and support. They both insisted on personal responsibility, integrity, and hard work, as there are no substitutes and no compromises. Soon after Buddy's death, Betty began a slow decline in health. She used a walker more and more, and readily accepted a wheel chair when offered. Her decline accelerated during the past few months. She was in and out of the hospital and eventually bed-ridden in her home of over fifty years. Hospice and close friends were her "angels" providing care and comfort during her final weeks. Realizing her life was coming to a close, she settled her personal accounts, financial and otherwise. All the books were balanced. In the end, she passed peacefully in her own home, surrounded by her three loving sons, family and

friends, exactly as she had wanted. She slipped quietly away. Betty Nalls leaves a legacy of three sons, seven grandchildren, one great-grandson and one more on the way, all of whom, she dearly loved. She is survived by her sister, Gwen Douglas. Betty Nalls is exactly why we have a Mothers' Day. Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr. Alexandria, VA on Wednesday from 2-4 & 7-9pm where a service will be held on Tuesday at 11am. Interment Mt. Comfort Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Jean Nalls*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Betty has been one of my most valued and loyal friends and is already deeply missed. I have enjoyed Betty for her, beauty, class, intelligence, laughter, sense of humor, love, and I can not count all the ways I have received pleasure from knowing Betty, Buddy and the entire family. I am very thankful for being a part of her Life. May all the wonderful memories and love bring the entire family peace at this time of sorrow until we meet again.*

April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM



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“ Our deepest condolences to your family.

April 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Betty was in every sense a "lady" and she always dressed with class and style. I took piano lessons from Betty for 8 years and cannot recall a single time that she raised her voice or lost her patience with me - even when I had not practiced my lesson for the week. We would always start where we had left off the previous week/lesson and proceeded from there. I do not play the piano much as an adult, however, whenever I do, Betty always comes to mind. :) God Bless and keep Betty and Buddy. They are now together again and are watching over their family from above. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Nalls family. God Bless you all. Lisa

April 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. David Smith and Nonie Vance*

April 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM