



## Bon Thi Nguyen

December 20, 1927 - July 13, 2021

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of Bon Thi Nguyen on July 13, 2021, in Saigon, Vietnam. She passed away peacefully in her sleep and was 93 years old.

Bon was born on December 20, 1927 to Ngo Le and Song Thi Truong in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam. She is the eighth child, the fourth of six daughters, in her family of twelve: Ngo, So, Ty, Phung, Thanh, Hoa, Chieu, Bong (Bon), Trang, Mai, Cuc, and Quy.

Bon was born to a poor family who lived on a boat, buying and selling food along the river while her father practiced as a spiritual shaman. One of her older brothers was drawn to sermons by American missionaries and eventually converted to Christianity. This angered their father, and he challenged his son's new-found beliefs by tying him to a boat for three days. He told him that if prayers to his god would keep him alive, then he, too, would believe in his god. Her brother survived unscathed, and she and her family soon became devout Christians. Witnessing this event left an everlasting impression on Bon and a memory she held very dear to her faith.

When she was a young teenager, she and her family moved to Da Lat where she earned a living by selling vegetables to Japanese soldiers. Some of Bon's siblings were able to find work in Saigon and moved south, working as

carpenters and cooks. One of her sisters worked for a French family and helped Bon get a similar job even though she couldn't speak French. Around the same time, a Northerner named Sao Van Nguyen also moved to Saigon. He had a small shop where he tailored clothes for Senegalese soldiers and happened to be neighbors with Bon.

Sao was drawn to her beauty and joyful, fighting spirit. The two began to date and through their conversations, Sao learned that Bon had strong religious convictions. When he proposed, she only agreed to marry him if he converted from Buddhism to Christianity. She told him that she wanted to be married in a church wearing a white ao dai (traditional Vietnamese dress). They made their wedding vows in Saigon in 1948 and were blessed with 12 children: Yen, Ngoc, Lynn, Robert, Hung, Minh, Tom, Laura, Kimberly, Luke, Mark, and Julia.

In April 1975, during the Fall of Saigon, Bon and Sao were forced to make an agonizing decision of whether to keep the family together in Saigon in hopes of surviving the war, or to leave Vietnam and save as many of their children as possible. One son, Ngoc, was imprisoned while another, Hung, was disabled with polio and could not be quickly and safely transported out. This decision weighed tremendously heavy on her heart as a mother, but they had to take the risk and flee. Two of the older sons, Bob and Minh, were sent ahead while the remaining 8 children stayed by their parents' side as they made their escape. Bon prayed for their survival and never lost faith that she would find her sons again.

Bon and the family arrived at a refugee camp in Indiantown Gap, PA in June 1975. Two-by-two, the children left with sponsored families for Northern Virginia. Bon and Sao were now all alone in a new country and separated from all of their children. After months apart, the Prince of Peace Church found a house in Alexandria, VA where the family reunited. Before long they were able to create their own home in Springfield, VA, and in 1990, they

reconnected with their two sons who were left behind in Vietnam.

Bon had the ability to make anyone feel cared for, as if they were her own child. She will forever be remembered for her warmth, resilience, selflessness, and her unconditional dedication to God and her family. Paired with wit and a smile that could light up a room, Bon radiated elegance and beauty. Her strength – physical, spiritual and psychological– was undeniable. Our matriarch, the true embodiment of what it means to be a mother, will be so greatly missed.

Bon was predeceased by Sao Nguyen (husband), Hung Nguyen (son), Ngo (brother), So (brother), Ty (sister), Phung (sister), Thanh (brother), Hoa (sister), Chieu (brother), Trang (sister), and Cuc (brother).

She is survived by Yen Miller (daughter), Mike Miller (son-in-law), Andrew Miller (grandson), Thuy Miller (granddaughter-in-law), Jonah Miller (great grandson), Clara Miller (great granddaughter), Ngoc Nguyen (son), Phuong Khanh Nguyen (daughter-in-law), Han Nguyen (granddaughter), Donald Nguyen (great grandson), Mia Ahern (great granddaughter), Tina Nguyen (granddaughter), Lynn Nguyen (daughter), Linda Ha (granddaughter), Daniel Douek (grandson-in-law), Lisa Ha (granddaughter), Timothy Smith (grandson-in-law), Larkin Ha-Smith (great grandson), Vinh Ha-Smith (great grandson), Brian Ha (grandson), Robert Nguyen (son), Chau Nguyen (daughter-in-law), Robert Nguyen, Jr. (grandson), Lynna Nguyen (granddaughter), Scott Nguyen (grandson), Michael Nguyen (step grandson), Michelle Nguyen (step granddaughter), Minh Nguyen (son), Tatyana Nguyen (daughter-in-law), Natashia Nguyen (granddaughter), Rizal Dumadag (grandson-in-law), Cameron Dumadag (great step granddaughter), Thomas Nguyen (son), Janeth Nguyen (daughter-in-law), JannieLe Nguyen (granddaughter), Laura Harris (daughter), Andrew Harris (son-in-law), Amanda Wotring

(granddaughter), Meghan Harris (granddaughter), Conor Harris (grandson), Kimberly Nguyen (daughter), Warren Weiss (son-in-law), Christina Thompson (granddaughter), Jonathan Schwam (grandson-in-law), Luke Nguyen (son), Stephanie Nguyen (daughter-in-law), Evelyn Nguyen (granddaughter), Jady Nguyen (granddaughter), Mark Nguyen (son), Julia Wolf (daughter), Christian Wolf (son-in-law), Austin Wolf (grandson), Kirsten Wolf (granddaughter), Mai (sister), and Quy (brother).

There will be a service in honor of Bon at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22315 at 11:00am July 22, 2021. Due to COVID requirements, we have limited seating available. Please contact a family member if you would like to attend the funeral service or closed casket visitations/viewings so we can comply with the headcount restrictions. Thank you for your understanding.

# Previous Events

## Closed Casket Viewing

JUL 21. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Closed Casket Viewing

JUL 21. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Funeral Service

JUL 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Graveside

JUL **22**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Fairfax Memorial Park  
9900 BRADDOCK ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VA 22032

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Bon Thi Nguyen*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - July 22, 2021 at 09:04 AM



*Thank you to the church for helping the family with the funeral*

Danh Nhan - July 22, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ *Bon Thi Nguyen*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Laura Harris - August 01, 2021 at 11:34 PM

DH

“ I'll forever cherish the memories I have with Bac Nguyen in the 1980s when we would have nice talks about all kinds of subjects. She would tell me that she wanted to improve her English, and that our conversations helped her practice. Those talks, I now realize, actually taught me more about life and about what it means to be a good human being than anything else. I'll forever be grateful to Bac Nguyen for her kindness and example of how to be good person. May God Bless her and the Nguyen family.

*With Love*  
*Dan*



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**Dan Hung** - July 22, 2021 at 07:37 AM

MN

*Thanks for sharing, Dan.*

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**Mark Nguyen** - July 22, 2021 at 06:40 PM

AM

“ To all the Nguyen family,

*My heartfelt sympathies on the loss of your mother (or grandmother). She was a lovely lady and I have fond memories of her from when I spent summers in VA as a teenager. She always made me feel welcome and part of the family. We may not have spoken the same language, but I definitely understood her kindness. And she was a fabulous cook! :) She is finally at peace, but her memory will always live on in your hearts.*

*Much love to you all,  
Anne Miller*

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**Anne Miller** - July 19, 2021 at 08:41 PM

MN

*Thank you, Anne!*

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**Mark Nguyen** - July 21, 2021 at 12:24 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Mark** - July 18, 2021 at 06:20 PM