



Dorothy Brown Unkle

May 1, 1942 - November 18, 2020

Dorothy Brown Unkle

78, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed November 18, 2020.

Born May 1, 1942, she was the mother to Kristine Cangianelli of Frederick, Maryland, Long-time girlfriend of Mike Alfieri, of Alexandria, Virginia, grandmother to Chelsea Pendleton, great-grandmother to Bradley, Winston, Madeline, and Josephine of Thurmont, Maryland; sister of Marie Cranford, Delbert and Albert Jones, and is also survived by a large, extended family. She enjoyed her daily walks, being adventurous and outdoors, amusement parks, and had a love for all animals. She had a kind heart and loved helping others. Her love and energy infected us all.

Bitsy had a long career at the State Department, then worked various jobs that included volunteering. She always stayed busy and was one of the strongest women we ever knew. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy Brown Unkle*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *I first saw Bitsy walking through the State Department cafeteria when she was expecting her daughter. Little did I know that eventually we would both be working in the Bureau of OES where I would get to know her. She was a friendly, warm, and energetic individual who liked to talk and laugh. She enjoyed organizing social events which included family members and co-workers from the State Department. A good time was always had by all. Bitsy will be missed by many, not only in her private life, but by her friends at the State Department as well. Sincere condolences to her family*

Tom and Janet Litzenberger

Janet Litzenberger - December 03, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ *Condolences to Bitsy's family. When I was a new DS Agent, Bitsy was so helpful so I continued to visit her for assistance throughout my career. She was always so pleasant and willing to guide me on the right path. It was worth a trip to her office to see Bitsy and Gloria as they both had a way of making you feel better by the time you were out the door. Remember speaking with her about her retirement prior to her departure - she was very much looking forward to helping others. From all the messages looks like she accomplished her goal. I'm very thankful to have known her.*

Keith Carter
(Retired DS Agent)

Keith Carter - November 30, 2020 at 11:47 AM

BL

“ Bitsy will be truly missed. I will miss our get togethers. When I first met Bitsy in 1993 as a DS intern she took me under her wing. She was a friend and mentor who I will never forget. We had a lot of great times together. I wish I could find the picture when we were at the BSR track in 1993. She was so much fun and always had a smile and big heart. Bisty was an icon to Mt. Vernon and the City of Alexandria and gave a lot to the community. We love you Bisty!!

Brad Lynn - November 30, 2020 at 09:25 AM

DK

“ The JMAS Diplomatic Receptions were always brightened by Bitsy's smile and especially her laugh. Something I'll never forget, and will always treasure those times. Wonderful memories! Alexandria definitely lost a great asset, and I lost a great friend.

Rest in peace my friend, enjoy your reward, and remember us as we fondly remember you.

Diane Kapanowski

Diane Kapanowski - November 28, 2020 at 11:53 AM

MA

Thank you for this Diane. Mike

Mike Alfieri - December 01, 2020 at 12:25 PM

EA

“ You truly don't know what you have until it's gone. The loss of Bitsy is unimaginable and will take time to understand why she was taken from us all. Bitsy made my brother smile, challenged him and loved him. We loved her and always enjoyed her company, her fabulous baked goods and funny stories. Her love of animals, especially dogs, and her knowledge of Old Town, Mt. Vernon, flowers and plants and all the other things she was so interested in always gave us something to chat about. We love her and send our deepest condolences to her family members, friends and especially to Mike. She's probably already done a full walk around all of Heaven. May she rest in eternal peace.



Eileen M. Alfieri - November 27, 2020 at 03:42 PM

MA

Yes She did Eileen. Thank you for this and all of your help, so far. I Love You...

Mike Alfieri - December 01, 2020 at 12:26 PM

OE

“ As I think about what to be thankful for on this special day, I remember Bitsy and I am thankful for knowing her and for having her for a friend. We worked together for many years in the State Department. She was a treasure to work with and, as anyone who knew her will attest, she was always positive, a free spirit and vivacious. We will all miss her but will be thankful she was part of our lives.

Otho Eskin

Otho Eskin - November 26, 2020 at 06:33 PM

MA

Thank you for this Otho ! She was very fond of you, we talked about you often. And yes She was all of the above, She was unique !

Mike Alfieri - November 27, 2020 at 11:05 AM

GD

“ Bitsy and I have been friends for over 30 years. We both worked at the State Dept but didn't meet until we both accepted HR positions with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. We instantly hit off. We shared our daily routine lunch time runs as well as socialized outside of work. We enjoyed many beach get aways, amusement parks, Christmas Limo rides, birthday celebrations back yard BBQ's and much, much more. Of course allowed Mike to join us, lol. They were a couple to be admired.. Bitsy's laugh still rings in my ears and her warm spirit resides in my heart. To know her was to love her! To Mike, Krissy, Marie and Bitsy's intire family, I offer my sincerest condolences. I pray for your strenght during this most difficult time.

...Rest in Peace my dear sister/friend. You have given much joy to many and will be truly missed.



Gloria Dawkins - November 25, 2020 at 07:57 PM

MA

Thank you Gloria for those kind words and great memories. I was honored to take part in all of your events and antics. It's great that you have this picture. We talked about your lunch time running many times.

Mike Alfieri - November 26, 2020 at 10:35 AM

KC

“ *Kristine Cangianelli lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Brown Unkle*



Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:19 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy Brown Unkle.*



November 25, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy Brown Unkle.*



November 25, 2020 at 05:18 PM

JJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jodi Jenkins - November 25, 2020 at 08:10 AM

KC

Thank you Jodi, this picture is priceless, so many wonderful memories. Your friendship and bond was so strong.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:51 PM

MA

Thank you Jody for sharing this picture !

Mike Alfieri - November 27, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dorothy Brown Unkle.*



November 24, 2020 at 09:04 PM

ED

“ *My deepest condolences about the passing of Bitsy. She was a positive minded and thoughtful person. On a lighter side, Betsy was a hoot! Just like the photo, she brightened up Department with her smile and gregarious laugh.*

Bitsy was instrumental in bringing on many young agents, helping them start their careers. For that reason, she was known widely and in a positive light. It is my privilege to write this message. Please mourn your loss, heal your feelings and shed only happy tears in remembrance of Bitsy. Ed Webb

Ed - November 24, 2020 at 08:33 PM

KC

Thank you Ed for sharing, knowing how many she touched is so wonderful.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:50 PM

BQ

“ I was heartbroken when I found out today. I worked with Bitsy for many years at the State Department. She was such a fun and kind person. I especially loved the support she and Mike gave by coming many years to my choir’s annual concert. I looked in the audience and they were always there. She loved her daughter and spoke of her grand. To the whole family including Mike, you were blessed to have such a kind, warm and funny loved one. I will never forget her. God bless you all. Barbara Quick

Barbara Quick - November 24, 2020 at 07:36 PM

KC

Thank you Barbara for sharing, she had such great years working there and so many stories of her co workers and formed such wonderful friendships with so many.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:49 PM

FC

“ Dorothy (Bitsy) lived on our block, and was a familiar figure to see, walking on the local streets. She was a lovely lady, and her house was always the best decorated in whatever season it was. We will miss her very much.

Fran and Karen and Cobie - November 24, 2020 at 07:06 PM

KC

Thank for for sharing, she always spoke kindly of her neighbors. She was lucky to have such wonderful ones.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:48 PM

WR

“ It was always a pleasure to see Bitsy at Mt. Vernon where we both worked for many years. I was always impressed by her walking-in addition to all the required walking at the Estate, she would walk all around the perimeter to get in her "steps" for the day. Condolences to all the family.

Bill Romano

William Romano - November 24, 2020 at 05:32 PM

KC

Thank you William for sharing, she walked 5 miles a day and was so inspiring to so many.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:53 PM

RH

“ Bitsy and I have been friends since our "rookie" years at the Department of State beginning in the early 1960's. What a ray of sunshine she always was. Never without a smile. I was shocked and saddened to learn of her passing. We have kept in touch via e-mails since our retirements, and I received her last note a couple months ago, just checking in. A sweet, sweet lady, who I considered an honor to call a friend. Richard Heckman, Special Agent (Retired), U.S. Department of State.

Richard Heckman - November 24, 2020 at 03:17 PM

KC

Thank you for sharing Richard, she always cared about everyone and kept in touch even after so many years, she loved working there and having such wonderful co workers and lifelong friends.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:55 PM

ST

“ Wonderful woman. Loved to help everyone. Rip bitsy

Steve - November 24, 2020 at 01:34 PM

KC

Thank you Steve for posting, we will miss her dearly.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:55 PM

JJ

“ *I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Bitsy. She was a thoughtful and caring person. Bitsy was instrumental in helping me get my career started with the State Department. She took time out of her day and provided the guidance and advice I needed in applying for DS. I will always remember her for her dedication and devotion. God bless*

Joseph F Clark , Jr - November 24, 2020 at 11:57 AM

KC

Thank you Joseph for sharing, knowing how much she cared about everyone and putting them first, that is who she was and I can only hope to be as wonderful as she was.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:57 PM

RS

“ *As a fellow volunteer, Bitsy was a wonderful person to work with at the Apothecary. Her stories were always uplifting mixed in with her unique humor always brought a smile to my face. I am glad to have met her during my life God Bless her Family*

Russell Simonaro

Russell Simonaro - November 24, 2020 at 10:22 AM

KC

Thank you Russell for sharing, she loved working there and always spoke so highly of her co workers and being there made her happy.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:58 PM

JG

“ I had the honor and pleasure of working with Bitsy at Mount Vernon. It's been said she was a ray of sunshine because she was. I will remember the after hours fishing parties at the wharf and the love she had for the animals at the farm, carrying water and treats for her beloved piggies in the summer. She loved and was loved in return. She will be missed but will continue to shine in our memories. My condolences and sympathy to her loved ones.

Janice Grogin - November 23, 2020 at 10:52 PM

DK

Bitsy will be greatly missed. She was a great friend.

Don Kraft - November 25, 2020 at 02:08 PM

KC

Thank you Janice, for the stories, always remember with a smile on her face.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:59 PM

MA

Thank you Janice. Bitsy looked forward to those fishing parties and virtually everything at Mount Vernon.

Mike Alfieri - November 26, 2020 at 10:35 AM

CR

“ Kris, I am so sorry to hear about your mom. Jeff Robinson (Will's son) here. I just spoke with her a couple of weeks ago. Ever since my Dad died she has called to check in and see how I am doing. She was always so kind and caring and funny and full of life. I am going to miss her and miss those phone calls.

Charles J. Robinson - November 22, 2020 at 07:52 PM

KC

Thank you Jeff for the kind words, I think of your your Dad and we had the same birthdate. Miss your Dad and Miss her so much already, the out pouring of stories and kindness have been overwhelming but appreciated. Krissy

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 02:46 PM

CR

“ Chris I am so sorry to hear about your mom. I recently got to see her when my father, Willard Robinson passed in November 2018. I have a memory of eating dinner at your house years ago (probably close to 45 years ago!) and the chicken parmigiana she made! It was so good! Dad always kept me up to date with what she was doing and then she called me a couple of times after dad’s passing. She was always so funny and full of life! Again please accept my condolences. Cindy Robinson

Cindy Robinson - November 22, 2020 at 05:38 PM

KC

Thank you Cindy for the memories, she sure did make the best Chicken Parmigiana and so many other dishes. Your Dad and her were the best of friends for so long. May they rest in peace up there together. Your Dad and I shared the same birthday and always made an effort to share cards to each other.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:08 PM

JJ

“ I am so saddened by Bity's death. My condolences to all her family, but Kris, Mike and Marie are most especially in mind and heart at this time. Bitsy and I became friends 45 years ago. We shared many good friends and coworkers, good time and great fun. She was the glue that kept us all together and in touch. Bits, you will be missed but not forgotten.

Jodi Jenkins - November 22, 2020 at 04:04 PM

KC

Thank you Jodi for sharing, I will always remember how close you two were and all the wonderful memories.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:09 PM

KL

“ *Every day you were with Bitsy was a day that was a bit brighter. She radiated kindness and light. It was just her. She was a true friend. Working with her was a joy. You never knew what fun that was going to be coming your way. I will miss her smile and her great kindness. What a pleasure it was to be called her friend. My deepest condolences to Marie, Mike, as well as her daughter and family. She will be missed and the world will be a little less bright without her smile.*

Karen LaRiviere - November 21, 2020 at 11:20 PM

KC

Thank you Karen for sharing and posting, She will be missed so much.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:05 PM

PB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Patricia C Berzins - November 21, 2020 at 07:54 PM

PB

“ We were so very saddened to learn of Bitsy’s passing. She was such an upbeat person and loved life. We had much in common - our work, running, and staying healthy. She loved her family and friends and will be missed by so many whose lives she touched. Rest In Peace, Bitsy.

Patti (Burke) and Gunars Berzins

Patti Berzins - November 21, 2020 at 07:24 PM

KC

Thank you Patti for posting and sharing. She will be truly missed so much and so many.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:04 PM

CS

“ Condolences to Bitsy’s family. She was always friendly and upbeat and had the best stories to share with us at Mount Vernon. Bitsy shall be missed.

Claire Sterling - November 21, 2020 at 06:49 PM

KC

Thank you Claire for sharing.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:10 PM

BM

“ I remember Bitsy as a genuine « people person » with a real zest for life. My sincere condolences to her family.

Barbara Martinez - November 21, 2020 at 06:36 PM

KC

Thank you Barbara for sharing.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:10 PM

NS

“ She always made early mornings at Mount Vernon fun. She had this energy about her that pulled you in. When she was annoyed she was feisty but it always made me giggle when someone annoyed her. she would always make you smile. Her love of life was contagious. And I am sad I will not get to see her again this side of heaven, but she will always be someone I will take a moment and smile about, cause she was just that kind of person. My heart felt condolences as prayers go out to her family.

nicole shelton - November 21, 2020 at 05:02 PM

KC

Thank you Nicole for posting, her smile, energy and loving person she was will be truly missed.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:11 PM

DB

“ Bitsy was a constant ray of sunshine at Mount Vernon. She brightened the spirits of many a visitor and many an interpreter.

DONNA BOULTER - November 21, 2020 at 04:30 PM

KC

Thank you Donna for posting and sharing.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:12 PM

SN

“ Bitsy was the best friend you could have. She stayed connected with everyone she knew. Our Mount Vernon family spread out over the years, but Bitsy and Mike gathered us together to keep up with everyone's life. Out of the blue she would call to chat just to see what was going on in each persons life. She was a forever friend.

sandy newton - November 21, 2020 at 04:22 PM

KC

Thank you Sandy for sharing, such a out pouring of love that so many had for her.

Kristine Cangianelli - November 25, 2020 at 07:13 PM