



Yvonne Marie Ryall

September 22, 1929 - November 21, 2021

Yvonne Marie Ryall, 92, of Springfield, Virginia, passed away on November 21, 2021, from coronary artery disease.

She was preceded in death by her first husband Lt. Col. Bob Leroy Gregory, and her second husband George Richard Ryall, Jr. She was the beloved mother of Roberta Anne Cordingley (spouse David M. Cordingley), William David Gregory (spouse Karen Lord Gregory), and step-son Chuck Ryall; aunt of Keith White and Cynthia Brooks; “Grammy” to grandchildren Emily, Noah, Mike, and Cheryl; and “GG” to great-grandchildren Greyson and Lucy.

Yvonne was born September 22, 1929, in Oklahoma City, daughter of Jessie Perry White and Linnie Helen Boyd White. She grew up in Oklahoma City, but also shared stories about experiencing pre-electricity life during frequent visits to family farms in rural Oklahoma.

After graduating from Central High School in 1947, where she was a proud member of the “Black Skirt Pep Club”, Yvonne attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She studied voice with English operatic soprano Dame Eva Turner and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in 1951.

While in college, Yvonne married Bob Gregory, who had returned to college from an Army posting in Germany, and began her life as a military wife. The

next 20 years were filled with raising a family and maintaining a household in many locations across the US and in Germany. Leisure time found the family visiting mountains for hiking and climbing. Wherever she lived, Yvonne was always active in her church as a choir director, lay leader, vocal soloist, and handbell director. Her faith became a defining touchstone and gave her strength and inner peace throughout her life.

Volunteering in scouting became a big part of Yvonne's life and turned into a profession in the Washington, DC area when she became a professional administrator and trainer with Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. When Bob died in Vietnam in 1968, Yvonne was responsible for supporting the family and seeing two children through high school and into college. She was a proud member of the Gold Star Wives organization and supported other military service charities.

Once her children were in college, Yvonne taught herself the skills needed to build a house in Shawneeland, near Winchester, Virginia. In 1977, She earned a second college degree, in Church Music, from Shenandoah University, and continued her active work as a choir director, vocal soloist, and lay leader in church.

She embarked on a new volunteer pathway as a braille transcriber for both language and music through the National Library Service for the blind and print disabled. Yvonne continued as an active braille transcriber into her 90s and treasured the clients that she worked for.

She married George Richard Ryall, Jr. in 1981 and they spent many happy years together enjoying friends, combined families, travelling, and caring for each other until Dick's passing in 1998.

In 2005, in her mid-70s, Yvonne moved to Greenspring Village in Springfield, Virginia. She quickly adapted to her new environment, made many close

friends, and became involved in lots of new activities. Some of her favorite activities included Wii bowling, bridge and other card games, and bible study. She formed a tone chimes group, played in a recorder ensemble, and was a frequent vocal soloist in the Greenspring Village Chapel. Yvonne also relished being an interviewer and camera operator for the TV station. A laptop computer, iPad, and iPhone became normal tools in her daily activities. Her regular lunch group was a safe harbor within her busy days, becoming even more important as an anchor for social contact when gathering was permissible during the height of the COVID pandemic.

A prolific and talented hand quilter, Yvonne always had a large quilt underway and numerous smaller sewing projects for gifts or household decorations. Her quilts are varied and beautiful and her crochet work is delicate and ornate.

Pets were an important part of Yvonne's life. As a 4-year-old, she was introduced to her first mixed terrier, "Pal," the first of many beloved pets throughout her life. In her late 80s, Yvonne finally decided she did not have the energy to take care of a traditional pet, so bought a large plastic goose appropriately named "Goosie." She made monthly outfits for her new pet and gamely posed for photographs with Goosie. Family members looked forward to her frequent sharing of these fun pictures.

For years, Yvonne made an adventure out of trying a new restaurant every month with her nephew. Even in the later years of her life, she always embraced a rich variety of experiences.

International travel was a big part of Yvonne's life in the military and it continued with a trip to Israel in the 1980s, a trip to Germany and Switzerland with her daughter's family in 2009, and a trip to India in 2018 for the wedding of one of her grandsons when she was 88 years old.

Walking was always Yvonne's exercise of choice and her days included miles of walking until the last year of her life. As the COVID pandemic protocols changed everyone's life, Yvonne continued walking a course through her apartment and tried to enjoy it as much as her previous walks along forested paths.

Yvonne will be remembered for her cheerful and caring demeanor toward all, an all-encompassing faith, love for her family, and a boundless energy for life.

A celebration of Yvonne's life will be held at Greenspring Village Chapel, 7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, Virginia on Sunday, December 12, at 2:00, followed by a reception for family and friends. Contributions in her memory may be made to Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.habitat.org>).

An online space for remembrances is available at <https://www.Jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC **12**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Greenspring Chapel
7430 Spring Village Drive
Springfield, VA 22150

Tribute Wall



“ *Yvonne Marie Ryall*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *I am very saddened by this. I met Yvonne when I was worked at the Greenspring Community after high school. Her love and care for others was experienced by me from the early on. I took as the grandmother here I did not have and she reciprocated that love back to me in many ways I could not imagine. I am happy we both got to see me finish with my school. I am forever grateful for the support and words of encouragement she provided to me while I was in school. I will forever cherish those memories. I love you and miss our lunches at the Village square.*

Love, Henry Agyeman

Henry Agyeman - March 29, 2022 at 12:49 PM



“ *I joined Yvonne's community handbell group in Winchester in the early 80's. She was a wonderful director and her love of music and her love for people was always evident. She inspired a small group of us to become the 6th Dimension, and we are all still ringing today. I am so thankful to have known such a loving Christian woman who led by example. Thank you Yvonne for your example.*

Rhonda Brooks

Rhonda Brooks - December 09, 2021 at 05:12 PM

PB

“ I served as organist at First Christian Church from about 1974 to 1987. Yvonne had a good and faithful choir and we all enjoyed being together. I remember she was working on her Church Music Degree at SU and starting her Braille work but I found out so much more after reading the complete obituary. It was interesting to read how active she was after leaving Winchester. She was a special lady and I enjoyed working with her for nearly 13 years.

Pat Byers

Currently organist at First Presbyterian

Pat Byers - December 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM

JJ

“ Yvonne was such an amazing lady! She was a dear friend to my mother, Iris Nolan. I can remember many of her beautiful solos, and her leading the adult choir/and hand bells at FCC. She was always so very kind, and have many fond memories of her. Deepest sympathies to her family. I am sure she is making a joyful noise in Heavens.



Respectfully, Jennifer Nolan Jenkins

Jennifer Nolan Jenkins - December 06, 2021 at 02:57 PM