



## Virginia "Ginny" Huggins

March 9, 1926 - January 17, 2023

Virginia Warren Smith Huggins of Davidson, NC died on January 17, 2023, at The Pines of Davidson at the age of 96.

Ginny was born on March 9, 1926, in Buffalo, NY to Theodore Eugene Smith, Jr and Virginia Morey Hall Smith and spent her childhood in Williamsville, NY. Ginny loved to laugh at her husband Tom's antics, especially his retelling of how they first met in 8th grade. Tom teased that Ginny wouldn't talk to him as the new student because she mistakenly thought he was a mere 7th grader. By high school they were dating, and it continued through college. Ginny graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and economics, with additional studies in early childhood education. Upon graduation she married Tom, and they lived first at Dartmouth College while Tom finished his MBA and Ginny worked for the Dartmouth library. Then they moved to Keene NH and started their family. In these early years Ginny taught kindergarten and was very involved with Girl Scouts, St. James Episcopal Church, renovating their old house, refinishing antiques, camping, hiking, skiing, and of course raising their children. In 1967 the family relocated to Charlotte NC for Tom's job, and where for many years Ginny taught at Open Door School at the Unitarian Church of Charlotte. Open Door was a new progressive school and the first racially integrated school in Charlotte. Before retiring, Ginny served as Director, although her preference was to be on a rug at eye level with her kindergarteners. Ginny and Tom loved the

friendships they formed in Charlotte especially through St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and Lake Norman Yacht Club. Ginny enjoyed folk and square dancing, and for nearly 50 years had season tickets to the Charlotte Symphony. Ginny retired early to help care for Tom who had cancer, and in the late 1980's they moved from Charlotte to Lake Norman. Looking for a local church, they were early members of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church of Mooresville where they took an active role and made lasting friendships. Ginny was always reading The New Yorker and was known for her exceptionally long handwritten letters to friends and family. Ginny and Tom were interested in simplified living, conservation, progressive local non-profits, and easing worldwide hunger. Their house was known for its annual Epiphany party, fresh vegetables from Tom's garden, and classical music blasting from every room of the house. Both Ginny and Tom felt extremely fortunate and grateful for their lives, and when they were faced with challenges, they faced them together. After Tom's death, Ginny lived alone until moving to The Pines of Davidson. She kept her sense of humor at the inconveniences of older life as her memory started to go. Most of all, Ginny treasured her relationship with God, family and dear friends, some of whom took an active role of support in all aspects of her life, including driving her to church, accompanying her at medical appointments, enjoying meals and book clubs together, and lots of good conversations. Ginny died with advanced dementia, but even in her early stages of confusion she was known for her gracious manner and appreciation for those who cared for her.

Ginny was preceded in death by her husband Thomas Hill Huggins (1995) and children Martha Hill Huggins (1964), Peter Hall Huggins (1996), and Elizabeth Adams Huggins (2013), and by sister-in-law Sally Huggins Griffith (2021).

Ginny is survived by her daughters Margaret "Posie" Clay Huggins (Jim) of Idaho, and Mary Katherine Huggins Voges (Mark) of Texas, and daughter-in-

law Sherry Perino Huggins (Peter) of NJ. Ginny is survived by her 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren: Tori Edmiston (Bryan), Matthew Ray, Percy Huggins (Michael), Ted Huggins, Benjamin Ray, Hannah Oliver (Dylan), Emily Voges, Megan Huggins (Bo), and Caroline Voges, and by great grandchildren: Olivia Edmiston, Calvin Raymond, and Marcus Raymond.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 25th at 3:00 PM at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Mooresville NC, followed by the committal and then reception.

Memorials may be made to Episcopal Relief and Development.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
164 Fairview Road  
 Mooresville, NC 28117

# Tribute Wall

MN

“ *Sending my condolences. I am just back from my 50th Reunion at Mount Holyoke College. On my 25th Reunion in 1998, I came upon Ginny wearing her Class of 1948 banner on a bridge lost in her memories. She had tearfully bid her husband-to-be goodbye as he went off to war, not knowing if they would ever meet again. They parted, she called him back and they hugged in the middle of the bridge. I sent Ginny the attached photo and she sent me the most lovely thank you letter. I will forever cherish that memory especially when I walk over that bridge. Margaret Nellis, MHC Class of 1973 n ellismj@gmail.com*



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**Margaret Nellis** - June 01, 2023 at 12:54 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginny" Huggins.*



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March 20, 2023 at 12:07 AM

MH

“*Posie and Mary Katherine, I have wonderful memories of Tom and Ginny during their time at St. Martin's in Charlotte, and the disappointment I felt when they moved to "The Lake". I don't remember the year they moved, but your Dad was facing health challenges then. I remember him saying to me that Ginny could be a widow at The Lake as well as she could in Charlotte. May both Tom and Ginny rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.*  
*Manning Huske*

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**Manning Huske** - January 30, 2023 at 12:05 PM

JD

“*Posie and Mary...sending hugs to you both at this time. Haven't seen you guys in a long time but wanted to say how much all of us Dolbys loved your mom and dad. Your mom had such a generous kind spirit, and was much admired by both my parents and us kids! (not kids any more!) Wish we could be at the St Pat's service. Know that we will be thinking of you all.*  
*With love, Jennifer Dolby*

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**Jennifer Dolby** - January 25, 2023 at 11:18 PM