



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

ZINKHAN, JOYCE

(Mrs. Ben Zinkhan '60)

Joyce Ann (Robertson) Zinkhan, wife of **Benjamin Christian Zinkhan III**, died at home in Staunton on 16 January 2016 after a long illness.

Joyce was half of our greatest support team: Spencer and Zinkhan. For years she and Ida Spencer collaborated in establishing and maintaining a standard of excellence for the local alumni, who are the actual staff of the Foundation/Association. Whatever needed to be done, they were first to lend a hand. When others were finished with the major tasks, they were still on the job, tending to the details.

Whether planning the overall project of an event like the picnic for the VMI cadets marching to New Market or the mundane and menial tasks of actually cleaning the Alumni House and Museum and presenting the best possible face to its visitors, Joyce and Ida were tireless in their efforts. Neither lady expected reward or even great praise for their efforts; they were there to get the job done, and they would do it themselves if no one wanted to help. If something more were needed to do the job, they saw to its procurement, at their own expense if necessary.

All of this was done with the same loving spirit that they showed their husbands over the years, thus enabling the men to spend so much time and treasure on the alumni activities of a school which neither of the ladies had ever attended.

Both Joyce and Ida will be sorely missed, but the example of their dedication lives on.

Joyce was well-known among the active members of the AMA Alumni Organizations as one of our most reliable and hardest-working supporters. She was a recipient of the Alumni Medal, only the third female to receive this award, and she and Ben are the only married couple to have been so honored.

Whenever there was something that needed to be done, Joyce and Ben were there. They were docents in the museum; they fed VMI cadets on their annual commemorative march to Mt. Jackson; they were mainstays at every reunion; they cleaned up before, during, and after any activity. And when she was home, Joyce baked cookies for everyone!

Joyce was an equally active member of Christ United Methodist Church, serving as a circle leader of the Eskew-Bates Women's Circle, the United Methodist Women, and lending a hand on numerous other committees of the church.

Joyce retired from the Genesco Company after thirty-three years. In addition to all her outside commitments, in her personal time she enjoyed flower gardening, painting, cooking, attending tea parties, shopping, and collecting dolls and giraffes. Joyce especially enjoyed spending time with her husband traveling all fifty states.

Mrs. Zinkhan was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Charles D. Robertson and Grover W. Robertson; and three sisters, Mary Fitzgerald, Nancy

Thompson, and Sandy Golladay.

In addition to her husband of thirty years, she is survived by a son, Timothy E. "Tim" Mizer, and his wife, Lisa R. (Hughes), of Verona; three daughters: Sherri Ann Langford; Krystal D. Goff and her husband, Lee, both of Staunton; and Laura D. Zinkhan, of Conover, NC; a brother, Emmitt L. Robertson, Jr. of Hartwood, VA; a sister, Isabelle R. Hutson of Staunton; eight grandchildren and an adopted grandchild; five great-grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews; and her pet dog, "Molly".