



# Mary Bettis Fishback

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019



Scan to Visit



*Loudoun*  
FUNERAL CHAPEL & CREMATORY  
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

# Table of Contents

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <b>Obituary</b> .....     | Page 3 |
| <b>Events</b> .....       | Page 4 |
| <b>Tribute Wall</b> ..... | Page 5 |



# Mary Bettis Fishback

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

## Mary Bettis Fishback 18 December 1954 to 22 May 2019

“Mary Jane” to her family and friends was born 18 December 1954 in Fauquier County VA. The daughter of Genevieve Bettis who preceded her in death, Mary Jane passed away 22 May 2019. She graduated from Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville VA in 1974 and was married in September 1974 to John Fishback who survives her. Mary Jane began a career in nursing in 1974 as a candy striper at Loudoun Memorial Hospital and obtained her LPN license in 1984. She worked at the hospital for several more years; she did private duty nursing before obtaining a position at the Graydon Manor Children’s Rehabilitation Center. In 1995 she started a second career working for the town of Leesburg as a part time recreation Instructor and in 1996 started working at Thomas Balch Library where she remained until her death. In 2012 she obtained a degree as a certified genealogist from the University of Toronto. In 2001 she was awarded the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Loudoun History Award and in 2013 was awarded the Mosby Heritage Area Association Heritage Hero Award for outstanding contribution to the preservation of the Mosby Heritage area. Mary Jane was a founding member of the Loudon Genealogy Club and a member of the Civil War Round Table. She volunteered for several years as a docent at the George C. Marshall in Leesburg, VA. In addition to her husband she is survived by a brother George Bettis and four half-brothers and sisters, Carl H. Hill, Patricia Hutton, James H. Stiles Jr. and Wilma Stiles and her Stepfather James H. Stiles, Sr. and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed by all those that loved and cherished her and loved and cherished history. A celebration of her life will be held on 15 June 2019 at the Leesburg United Methodist Church in Leesburg from 5 to 6 pm with a reception to follow from 6 to 9 pm at the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg VA. Please share online condolences with the family at [www.loudounfuneralchapel.com](http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com)

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to  
INOVA Heart Institute --<https://support.inova.org/page/3747/donate/1>  
or Thomas Balch Library <http://balchfriends.org/support>



# Events

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

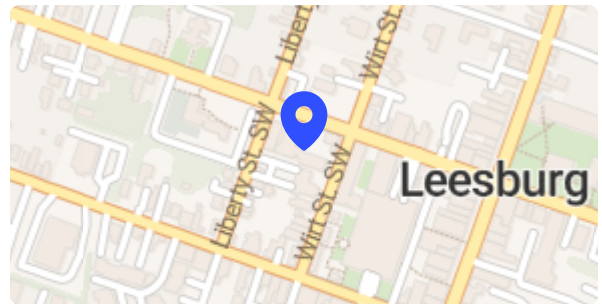
DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, June 15, 2019

 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

 **Leesburg United Methodist Church**  
107 W Market St., Leesburg VA 20176

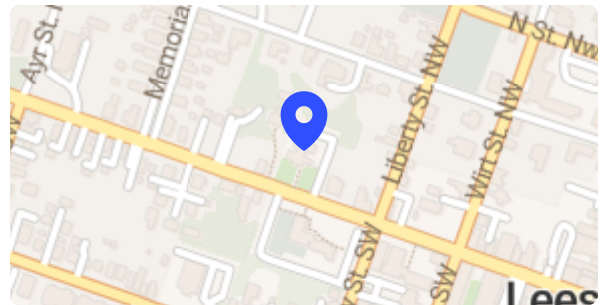


## Reception

 **Saturday**, June 15, 2019

 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET

 **Thomas Balch Library**  
208 West Market Street, Leesburg VA 20176





## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019



**John Anderson** posted:

What is little known is that Mary volunteered at Loudoun Library Foundation Used Book Sale. Mary's knowledge of the Special-priced Books was impeccable. She always knew which Books to set aside for that purpose. She made our volunteering so enjoyable. Sale is next Weekend & we'll be thinking much about our Dear Friend.Miss You & Rest in Peace.

June 14 at 11:45 AM



**Jane Ferguson** posted:

Dear John:We send our condolences to you and the family.Mary was a kind and wonderful person and a great genealogist.We will miss her. But we are so blessed to have known her. She left us too soon.Rest in peace Mary.Jane and John Ferguson

June 14 at 7:05 AM



**Joan Whitener** posted:

Dear John and Mary's Family,We want to send you our sympathy and say how sorry we are for the loss of Mary. We were fortunate to have had her friendship through the Civil War Round Table and her invaluable help when researching at Thomas Balch Library. Her friendly manner and knowledge were a great help to me, personally, when I was working to find my Revolutionary War Patriots. We will miss her smiling face and caring ways, but are happy to have had the opportunity to know her. We are keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.George and Joan Whitener

June 13 at 5:21 PM



**Joan Whitener** posted:

Dear Mr. Fishback and Family,On behalf of Kectoctin Chapter, NSDAR, I want to express our sincere sympathy on the loss of Mary. She was a true friend of our chapter and always helpful to everyone. She will be missed by all who knew her and we want you to know her kindness will forever be remembered.In sympathy,Joan WhitenerCorresponding SecretaryKectoctin chapter, NSDAR

June 13 at 5:13 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Fishback family.



June 11 at 7:29 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

SR

**Sheila Ralph** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

I took my first genealogy class with Mary and continued to have many conversations with her about my quest searching for family information. She was always gracious and helpful during my many trips to Balch Library. You will be greatly missed. Sheila Sparks Ralph

June 10 at 7:11 AM



AB

**Alice G. Bird.** posted:

Worked with Mary at Loudoun Memorial Hospital in mid-70's. She was very dedicated to her patients and her work there. She was compassionate and her patients were well pleased with the kind and gentle care she gave. Blessed to have known Mary.

June 5 at 6:01 PM

RF

**Rick Frye** posted:

Mary helped me with a few local history projects in past years at Balch Library. Her knowledge of Loudoun County history was profound and inspiring. She was a treasure for sure.

June 4 at 4:57 PM

KC

**Karen Cicalese** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

June 3 at 7:01 AM



DB

**Dianne And Bill Babics** posted:

Mary came into our lives as fellow docents at Dodona Manor, later known as the Marshall House. During orientation under the tutelage of Pat Black and Rachel Thompson, Mary answered questions no one even knew to ask. She also had a flare for decorating. Christmas time at the Marshall House had her inimitable touch. When historical documents or photos arrived at Blossom and Bloom, they were donated to Balch Library and delivered to Mary. We shared ideas and laughter at tours, concerts and events at these unique living historical institutions in our home town. We will keep Mary's memory alive by telling her personal connection as her nurse for Mrs. Marshall at the Leesburg Hospital. We are grateful Mary shared her many talents with her community. Diann and Bill Babics

June 1 at 6:41 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

RC

**Ron Cmapbell** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 31 at 1:43 PM



WS

**William M. Sprecher** posted:

I well remember Mary and her husband John while I volunteered at both the Thomas Balch Library and The General George C. Marshall House in Leesburg . Mary was so dedicated to history and those places that mirrored history. The Balch Library is an exceptional institution and the Marshall House is history itself. She and I were docents at the Marshall House, and it was just great to show visitors the General's home. The Library is honestly unique, and she helped to make it an experience.Thanks, you will be remembered. Bill Sprecher, Leesburg, Virginia 20176

May 30 at 1:05 PM

JM

**Janet Morris** posted:

Sending peaceful prayers to John and Carl, Mary's family, her best friend Fran, and many friends. I am so sorry for your loss. I will always smile when I remember Mary. I learned, pretty early on, being invited to share holiday celebrations with all of you, that if you did not show up suitably adorned for any given holiday, you would be provided with some sort of festive flourish from a treasure chest of selections she had at the ready. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" - Thomas Campbell

May 30 at 10:34 AM

SR

**Sandra Van Roekel** posted:

I will greatly miss my friend Mary, she has a beautiful spirit, she always had a smile. She made me love Halloween and she gave me the MOST beautiful crimson peonies. She is home and I pray that her garden is as beautiful in heaven as it was on earth. RIP, you will be greatly missed

May 30 at 9:10 AM

DT

**Donald Gallahan And Stuart Tart** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 28 at 4:19 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

SG

**Stuart Tart And Donald Gallahan** posted:

Don and I were fortunate to share Christmas Eve brunch with a group of close friends at Mary's and John's home for many years. One year, Mary was wearing a silly hat with elf ears or something, and she had persuaded John and her brother Carl to do the same. Each year thereafter, wearing fun holiday hats became a regular tradition for all of us who attended. We will miss Mary's warmth and sense of fun. We love you, Mary, and your presence at future gatherings will be sorely missed! -- Stuart Tart and Don Gallahan

May 28 at 4:17 PM

CF

**Charlie Fishback** sent an Arrive in Style to the Fishback family.



May 28 at 12:04 PM

TS

**Tiffany Simpson** posted:

Praying for you Uncle Johnny (Lohnny) and Carl. Aunt Mary Jane was definitely one who broke the mold when she was created. I will always remember our weekend dinners, Aunt Mary Jane's exciting holiday earrings, and her referring to me as Miss T. Very sad news. Rest easy.

May 28 at 4:59 AM

KP

**Kim Powell** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



May 27 at 5:23 PM

KP

**Kim Powell** posted:

Mary Jane I will always have fond memories of the Saturday nights when you and Johnny would come to the house and play cards.... I imagine now that you and Mom are already planning your first game, tell her I love her.... until we meet again....

May 27 at 5:09 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

HV

**Helen Vanskiver** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 27 at 4:40 PM



DN

**Debra Neely** posted:

Hi John. God bless your heart. Debbie Jones Neely

May 27 at 6:17 AM

DL

**Doris J Lemarr** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

We all will miss her, our hearts go out to you Johnny, you and your family are in our hearts and prayers, Jane Hatcher Lemarr

May 27 at 3:15 AM



TB

**Tom Bowers** posted:

Mary was a revered and valued docent at the Marshall House for more than 10 years, and we will miss her when it comes time to decorate the house for Christmas, a task that she did so well. She was also our contact with Katherine Marshall, General Marshall's widow. Mary took care of her in her final years. Mary was a great help to me when I did research at Balch Library. I will never be able to go back to Balch without thinking about Mary and expecting her to come upstairs to greet me. I was also fortunate to have learned about Leesburg's history on one of Mary's superb tours. It is so hard to believe that someone so vibrant is no longer with us. Tom Bowers

May 27 at 3:12 AM

SM

**Steve Miller** posted:

My heart is heavy and very sad to hear this news. I have known Mary since high school.. She will be missed...

May 26 at 5:26 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019



**Debbie Byrd** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



May 26 at 3:06 PM



**Debbie Williams** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



May 26 at 1:34 PM

**DL Dora Lea Spring Lucas** May 26 at 2:41 PM  
So sorry to hear. She will be missed

**DW Debbie Williams** May 26 at 1:36 PM  
Love this girl. We went to school together, had a few classes together, she worked at the hospital. And helped me so much when I would go to the Library. An amazing person. She will be so missed.



**Julie Pierson** posted:

Mary was my nurse when I was a resident at Graydon Manor. She did my blood work earlier than needed every week just so I could get a few minutes with the skittish unit cat. I could pet him before everyone else got up. I still have the book she got me when I was there at Christmas she was very kind and compassionate with all of us who lived at Graydon.

May 26 at 11:46 AM



**Annette Decourcy Towler** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



May 26 at 9:39 AM

**AT Annette Decourcy Towler** May 26 at 9:45 AM  
Mary, was a fantastic genealogist and we had many good conversations. She will be very much missed and she made my move from MN to VA very helpful with my path/road for helping with my genealogy. Annette



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

AR

**Armatha** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 25 at 4:41 AM



LI

**Liela** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

My prayers and condolences to Mary's family. I worked with her at the Town, she was always so nice to chat with.

May 24 at 6:01 PM



BB

**Bev Bartley** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 24 at 1:00 PM



JL

**John Lickey** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 24 at 12:04 PM



JP

**Julie Pierson** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

May 24 at 11:57 AM



AB

**Adam Bell** posted:

DEAR FISHBACK I AM MISS MARY I WORK WITH MARY GOD IS GOOD

May 24 at 9:03 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Bettis Fishback**

DEC 18, 1954 - MAY 22, 2019

CB

**Carolyn Ashton(Buns)** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



May 24 at 6:13 AM

PA

**Pamela** posted:

Mary was a great help to the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable and a wonderfully knowledgeable resource at Balch Library. I will miss her ready laugh and her know-how. She touched so many people in so many helpful ways. I wish her family God's peace in the days ahead.

May 24 at 3:56 AM

SA

**Sandi** posted:

Mary was a wonderful nurse and friend when we both worked at Graydon Manor. She was the only person able to get blood out of me when I was pregnant, without completely annihilating my arm. She would draw the blood and I would take it to the Dr office. Wow, wouldn't be able to do that these days. Rest In Peace Mary!

May 23 at 6:09 PM

RM

**Ray Milburn** posted:

My deepest condolences to the family of Mary. She touched the lives of many in a positive manner.

May 23 at 1:38 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit