



Vera Audrey Cracknell Long

March 3, 1926 - October 6, 2020

Vera Audrey Cracknell Long

Vera, 94, passed away on October 6, 2020 in New Market, Virginia. Vera was born at home in Essex, England on March 3, 1926. She was the daughter of Charlotte and Ernest Cracknell, and one of nine children. Vera grew up in England during WWII.

In 1945, at the age of 19, Vera married 26 year old, U.S. Army Sgt. Charles William Long from Kingston, Pennsylvania. In 1946 Vera sailed on the Queen Mary to America, sanctioned by a special act of Congress, The War Brides Act. Vera and Charles settled in Maryland, then Vienna, Virginia and raised four children.

Vera was a member of the Transatlantic Brides and Parents Association (TBPA), as well as the International Churchill Society. In 1986 both Vera and Charles were on ABC's 20/20 TV show. The documentary featured the 40th anniversary of the TBPA in Southampton, England. The first GI brides' reunion made the front page of the New York Times on September 29, 1986, with a picture of Vera and Dame Vera Lynn, who was famous for singing wartime favorites like "The White Cliffs of Dover". The documentary was aired on Thanksgiving Day of that year.

Vera became an Interior Decorator, certified by the New York School of Interior Design. In 1988 she graduated with honors from George Mason University with a degree in history. She also published a book *From Britain With Love, WWII Pilgrim Brides Sail to America*. Her book chronicles the war brides experiences before and after their trip across the pond. Vera was an accomplished pianist and enjoyed playing classical music. Her favorite time of the year was Christmas. Singing Christmas carols with family and friends. Sharing festive Christmas crackers containing colorful paper hats and prizes while eating roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, flaming figgy pudding (with silver charms) and custard pudding. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was spent visiting friends.

Vera is survived by her husband Charles, sister Joan Marks from Middlesex, England; sons Malcolm Long and Derek Long; daughters Gini Curcia and Cindi Adams; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

There will be a service for Mrs. Long at the Arlington National Cemetery Chapel, date to be determined. In lieu of flowers Memorial gifts may be to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37839, Boonelowa 50037-0839.

Please share online condolences with the family at <http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com>.

Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave.

Arlington, VA, 22211

Comments



“ So sorry to just find out about Great Aunt Vera's passing last year. She was very close to my Dad (Leslie) who, although a year older, was her nephew and so they grew up together. She was always talked of very fondly in our house as I grew up. I remember meeting her and her husband on many occasions on their visits to England.. Also hearing all about lives in America from my Grandma (her elder sister), when she returned from visiting America in the 1960's. It was all very exciting to us. Sending my love to Charles and all her family. xx. April (daughter of Leslie and Sylvia Robinson). april@thehaxbys.co.uk

April - April 07, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ To Charles and family of my great Aunt Vera. I am very sorry to hear of her death in October 2020. I remember meeting her and Charles on a number of occasions when they visited England and when they kindly welcome myself and my husband into their home when we visited the US. Please pass on my condolences. I will let my Mother, Thelma Robinson know. If you would like to contact me, ewalker68@gmail.com.

Esther Walker - April 07, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ Loving memories of my dearest sister Vera and our childhood and teenager years together before she left for America. She always helped and looked after me. Although her life was in America we kept in close contact and always enjoyed her many visits with Charles to England and the wonderful time I had in Virginia in the eighties. So sadly missed. Loved always. Joan Marks xx

Joan Marks - October 15, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ Auntie Joan, thank you for your kind words. I will always cherish my visit to England with my Mom (aka Mum) in June of 1955!...Gini

Gini Curcia - October 15, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this most difficult time. Sending our heartfelt condolences,

The Kindred Hospice team

Kindred Hospice Team - October 09, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ Thank you for your prayers and support. You were there when my Mom needed you the most. Thank you Gini

Gini Curcia - October 09, 2020 at 08:28 PM