



Zettie Sarah Sanford Walters

October 31, 1928 - May 12, 2020

Dearest mother, Granny, Great Granny, dear friend and neighbor died May 12, 2020 at the age of 91, cut down in the prime of her life by the dreaded coronavirus.

Born in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, she was the youngest of 7 children born to John Henry Sanford and Lela Catherine Sanford. She is predeceased by her sisters, Vera, Veda, and Lettie, and brothers Leland, Albert and Archie, She is also predeceased by her husband Jack Carl Walters USN.

She was a wife, mother, teacher, seamstress and small business owner with her sister Lettie, designing and making custom attire including bridesmaid's dresses, cheerleader uniforms, suits and formal attire. Like her beloved "Mama" before her, who was known for providing meals to the local children during the Great Depression, "We were dirt poor but Mama always managed", Zettie was always a champion of the underdog and those she saw in need. She continued this legacy throughout her life. For many years, Zettie and her husband Jack rescued innumerable dogs at their homestead in McCalla, Alabama.

In 2008 she moved to Paeonian Springs, VA to live with her daughter Jackie where she continued her loving and creative endeavors: being a Granny and Great Granny, making quilts for Joshua's Hands, painting and doing jigsaw puzzles with her caregivers, Debbie Green and her beloved Betty Jo Cooper who was with her for almost 12 years. "I'm not one to sit and do nothing. I need to keep my hands busy." She loved birds and butterflies. Indeed, she loved all animals, and her little pug named Shadow was a constant companion in her later years. Throughout Zettie's life, people were immediately smitten by her southern charm. She had a wry sense of humor and was a Storyteller in the Grand Southern Tradition.

"A life worth celebrating"

She will be missed by her three children: Vicki Walters Sterling, Jacqueline Walters Cinelli and Stephen Carl Walters, daughter-in-law Dayna Spector Walters, seven grandchildren: Benjamin Lee Sterling, Moriah Anne Sterling, Bethany Rose Sterling, Will Sanford Cinelli,

Forrest Carter Cinelli, Sarah Star Althea Wiest, and Joshua Scott Walters (who predeceased her in 2010) three great- granddaughters: Liana Leiva, Aeraly Wiest and Alva Clark and numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations made to a local food bank or to the local animal shelter.

Comments



“ Dear Jackie and Family ~

I'm so very sorry for the loss of your mom. Sadly, we didn't have the opportunity to grow up near each other, so didn't know her as well as I would have liked. When we would visit Aunt Berlie, and get to see you all on those few trips, it was nice to spend time with family we really didn't know. And, your mom and Uncle Jack were so kind to us and made us feel like we truly were welcome in their home. Your mom was definitely a true Southern Belle, and she obviously remained young at heart....these pictures.....she hadn't changed at all since the last time I saw her, which would have been around 1974!

I posted the following, (see below) on my mom's obituary page because, I love the message, so thought I'd share it with you as well. I know you and your mom were extremely close. Your mom has now been gone more than a year, mine for 7. It's still very difficult at times, but I know our mothers would not want us to grieve, and with the way the world is right now, they truly are in a much better place.

Blessings to you and yours,

Joan (Inez's daughter)
inasixtiesstateofmind@yahoo.com

"What though the radiance which was once so bright,
Be now forever taken from my sight,
Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind."

Joan Manwill - August 19, 2021 at 12:04 AM



“ We miss you Great Granny! XOXO



Sarah (Walters) Wiest - June 28, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ Forrest Cinelli lit a candle in memory of Zettie Sarah Sanford Walters



Forrest Cinelli - June 28, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ Zettie was such a very dear friend to me We had so many laughs Loved taking her for rides, stop at McDonald's and get our french fries with extra salt (than Jackie would wonder why her legs were swollen) but I would confess. My son always called us driving Miss Daisey We loved to play games on the computer, put puzzles together, watch soap operas. I think the one thing that we did and laughed so hard was when the company was putting up new poles and we befriended the guy holding the traffic sign went to McDonald's and got him lunch one day and brought him little treats quite often. She will forever remain very special to me and I know one day I will see her again.

Betty Jo Cooper - June 22, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ Please accept my condolences on the passing of Zettie.. It was an honor to have known such a good friend and I have thought of her so often. From 3 yrs of age to 16, I lived very near this family. It was just a trek through the woods to her house and we enjoyed many hours with each other, and the family. The good news is, at my age, I will get to see her soon and won't it be a great reunion. May fond memories of Zettie bring you comfort during this hard time in your life. My heart and prayers go out to you and your family.
Nell Oswald Naugher
Northport, Alabama

Nell Oswald Naugher - June 19, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ My family loved Mr and Mrs Walters. They were our neighbors for many years and also our friends. Mrs Walters and my mom made tennis dresses many many years ago (that we wore proudly) and also made a wedding dress for me while she was an instructor at Bessemer Technical School. I thought she was the BEST. Always smiling and so very friendly. I will miss seeing her on face book and sharing a Hello. YES I loved Mrs Walters. Patsy Herrington Ballard

Patsy Ballard - June 17, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Zettie Sarah Sanford Walters.



June 14, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ Keith Cox
So sorry Jackie! She was always so kind to me way back then!

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ Vicki Lynn Walters
My condolences to you and your family, you're in my thoughts and prayers.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ Opie Taylor
Oh Jackie. So sorry I didn't get to meet her. I would have loved to heard one of her stories.
Enjoy those sweet memories.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ She was a wonderful lady. I know you all will miss her very much.
Elaine Cinelli

Elaine Cinelli - June 14, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ Nancy Piness
Jackie, What a moving tribute to your beloved mother. May Zettie's memory always be for a blessing.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ Dayna Walters
Beautiful tribute. I loved her stories.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ Lynette Haggard
Jackie Walters and Vicki Ruth Sterling I'm so sorry for your loss. Your mother sounds like she was quite a beautiful woman.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ Sadie Hamby
She's an awesome lady I loved doing puzzles with her and talking with her. I'll miss her. I love you all and if you ever need anything let me know.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ Mike Chrisman
Sad that she's gone. So glad I got to spend time with her last summer, listening to her stories, working on puzzles, walking (slowly) around town -- all those things she loved....

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:07 AM



“ Bob N Donna Folker
We are saddened to hear of the loss of your Mom. She was a beautiful lady who seemed to be always smiling. We thank God for the life of love she had and for the legacy she leaves in her children and grandchildren.

Jackie Walters - June 14, 2020 at 11:05 AM