



Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie

August 25, 1924 - April 16, 2016

Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie, 91, of Scott Depot formerly of Nitro passed away Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Regency Place, Scott Depot.

Born August 25, 1924 at Nitro to the late John Calvin and Daisy Sattes Blackwood. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Roberta Bailey and Jean Collins.

Phyllis was a retired schoolteacher for the Kanawha County Board of Education with 28 years of service. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans. She was also head counselor at Tapawingo Farm Camp, Gouldsboro, PA for 18 years.

She is survived by her loving husband of 72 years Frank Gillespie; son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Janet Gillespie of Akron, Ohio. Also surviving are 2 grandchildren, Zachary and Andrea, both of Huron, Ohio.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 am Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church, 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans with Rev. Paul Romine and Rev. Dr. Bill Ellis officiating. Burial will be in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans.

Friends may call one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to First Presbyterian Church, 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, WV 25177 or Kanawha Hospice, 1606 Kanawha Blvd, W., Charleston, WV 25387.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177

Funeral Service

APR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177

Tribute Wall



“ *Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I do not have any ones emails so I am putting this out hoping to reach some of you.*

To all my camp friends:

I dint know if anyone was aware that we lost a true Tapawongoan. Our beloved Thadd Mumford September 18 , 2018, yes the amazing Mumford has passed.

He was a life long friend of mine I spoke to him before he died and he didn't tell me he was sick, but that as his way.

I would have been with him and told him that i loved him as we all did. I had no idea i would never see him again.

We have lost a great camper and friend.

Hopefully he is in the great camp in have.

Best regards,

Evelyn Ury Edelman

evydesign2@aol.com

Evelyn Ury Edelman - March 04, 2019 at 12:57 PM

RR

“ Dear Frank and Greg,

I'm so sorry to hear that Phyllis passed. The memories I have of Tapawingo and all of you are always in my heart.

I think of you often and have tried to Google search you many times but never found anything that I thought was you until today. Finding you due to Phyllis's obituary made me sad for her passing, grateful for her life and happy that I could still reach out to you after all these years.

I'm not sure you will even remember me but you have never been out of my thoughts. I still sing the old camp songs as I go about my day. Memories of Indian week, horseback trips, canoe trips down the Susquehanna, filling in as the rifle instructor for a few weeks on my summer vacation and so many other things we've shared never fail to bring a smile to my face.

You have instilled in me a love of people and of the beauty of nature that have stood me in good stead for most of my 70 years on earth. Thank you and God bless you for that!

I have been scanning old photos into my computer since I've retired and set up a web site so that I could share them. I posted the link on the Gouldsboro Topix blog a while back in the hope that other former campers would see them and enjoy the memories.

I'm including it here for you:

<https://tapawingophotos.shutterfly.com/>

I hope they bring fond memories for you.

I send you my love and condolences. I wish this could have been more timely but I know you will understand.

Bob Rosenblum

Robert Rosenblum - November 15, 2016 at 01:11 PM

KE

“ *The West Virginia and Kanawha County Associations of Retired School Employees extend their sincere sympathy to you, the family, in your sorrow. Blessings to all.*

Kan. Co. Retired School Employees - April 29, 2016 at 04:05 PM

DL

“ *Ms Gillespie was my third grade teacher at Baker Elementary over 40 years ago. She was an excellent teacher and made learning fun!! She really helped me develop my math skills and the speed with which I could make calculations by holding math relays in class. I went on to become a chemical engineer due to my love of math and sciences and she really helped put me on that path. I am really glad to have been part of her class. My prayers and condolences go out to her family.*

Don Lewis, Singapore

Don Lewis - April 23, 2016 at 05:03 PM

MF

“ *So many memories pop into my head when I think of Phyl. I spent the best summers of my childhood at Tapawingo, and Phyl and Frank were so integral to that experience. I can close my eyes and see her teaching swimming, or canoeing, and always that laugh! I made the interesting mistake of calling her "Aunt Phyl" once. I can still see the glare and the "never call me that again"! (So I saved it for when I knew her so much better and could needle her with it.) She was one of the amazing women there at camp who became family and the best of mentors and teachers to me and so many others. She was an amazing role model and I have always been better for knowing her. Much love to all of you who were as lucky as I was to know Phyl!*

Marsha Deitchman Fernandez

Marsha Fernandez - April 23, 2016 at 11:39 AM

LO

“ *Phyl and Tapawingo Farm Camp will be forever etched in my memory. As a child, the camp gave me a place to fit in and she was part of that precious experience. I can still picture her with her bathing suit and a lanyard whistle around her neck at the waterfront. I can see Inky and Phyl sitting in a tent laughing and planning the next day's activities.*

With her southern accent, which i loved, and her ability to get everyone organized, I was always a bit intimidated -- but am extremely grateful she was part of my life that helped me to find myself.

In the later years, when we were grown up and had families of our own, she was always happy to hear from her 'alumna', and the reunion about 14 years ago, was an incredible highlight for all of us. We celebrated coming together for this momentous occasion--and she and Uncle Frank led us in all the high points of an entire summer, in one, too-fleeting, weekend, culminating with the banquet. It was so lovely to see this couple who had been such a large influence on all of us 'campers' return with love and open arms.....

Phyl will be missed, but her memory will always be ingrained in my heart.....

My love to the family of this amazing woman, may your sorrow be eased with the knowledge of the legacy she leaves all of us.....hugs, Love and more, Lyn

(lyn weinberg ofrane)--one of the 'weinberg girls'

lyn ofrane - April 20, 2016 at 07:16 PM

DL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ms. Gillespie's passing. She was my teacher at Baker Elementary School over thirty years ago. I just wanted to share that she was a very special teacher and definitely one of my favorites. She made learning fun by challenging us even at an early age (math relays). She definitely made a difference. Although it has been well over 30 years I still have very fond memories of going to school at Baker Elem and Ms. Gillespie as my teacher. Our prayers are with you and your family.

*Doug Lewis
Atlanta, Georgia*

Doug Lewis - April 19, 2016 at 02:01 PM

LC

“ *What a sad day for our Tapawingo Family....my thoughts and prayers and love are with Frank and Greg and their families...*

I love that I knew Phyl and I'm not sure I'd be who I am today if we had not met. And as much as I thought she touched my life as a child, I am honored that our bond continued into a lifetime of friendship and love for each other. After writing to 103 Blackwood Street for over 40 years, a group of us came to Nitro a few years ago for a weekend visit. We laughed, we talked, we shared meals and memories, and continued our joy of being together.

I will always remember my last phone call with Phyl -at first she did not remember who I was and that broke my heart. But right before we hung up she said - wait - you're from camp! Thank you....

At our 2002 camp reunion, I was honored to be the recipient of Frank and Phyl's 1st gold "on the ball" award. The famous golf ball plaque was accompanied by a necklace with a gold ball centered on it. I wear the necklace often and reminded each time of our magical reunion weekend and a lifetime of Tapawingo memories.

Today I wear this gold ball in your honor, Phyl....you will be in my heart forever. xolee

lee casher - April 18, 2016 at 07:21 PM

CT

“ Mrs. Gillespie had a huge impact on the lives of her students, particularly mine. I was in her third grade class at the old East Sattes Elementary School which closed many, many years ago. In fact, Greg was in my class. I'm sure he would agree that she never treated him any differently from her other students. She had a profound influence on me. She encouraged me to want to learn and showed me how rewarding and satisfying that could be. It has stayed with me my entire life. To this day, when I'm asked who my favorite teacher was, I always answer, unequivocally, "Mrs Phyllis Gillespie". My deepest sympathy to Mr. Gillespie, Greg and family.

Cathy Eskins Thomas

Cathy Thomas - April 18, 2016 at 05:49 PM

PL

“ We wish to express our condolences to Frank and family. Our family had the privilege of having Phyllis teach our sons at Baker Elementary School in Nitro. Her enthusiasm for teaching made learning exciting and fun. Her student's accomplishments can be attributed to her dedication to encouragement in education during those early years. Years passed and again our paths crossed at our church, First Presbyterian, St. Albans. Greeting smiles were always spontaneous with "Hellos" but now I feel sadness upon hearing of her death. I enjoyed her sense of humor. Seventy two years of marriage is an inspiration to all. Frank and Phyllis displayed a youthfulness for living that I admired. Both have been involved in church, teaching, education - they have made a difference. Thanks

Don and Pat Lewis, sons, Donnie, Doug

Pat Lewis - April 18, 2016 at 02:07 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie.*



April 18, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ *Greg, Know that we are thinking of you at this time. May a lifetime of happy memories help you through the sad times. God Bless you and your Dad!*

Your Friends from FirstEnergy - April 18, 2016 at 12:45 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie.*



April 18, 2016 at 12:00 PM



“ *Dear Frank:*

Ruth & I are sorry to hear of your loss, our memories go back a long way with you and your family. Our prayers are with you and the family.

*Carroll & Ruth Young
Plant City, FL*

A. Carroll Young - April 18, 2016 at 11:57 AM

PA

“ Hugs and prayers to Frank and Greg and the family. I was at Tapawingo each summer from 1939 until 1957, so I was there to welcome Frank and Phyl when they came after the Krayers. So many happy memories, and life-influencing changes from knowing such good people- I worked the waterfront with Frank, and still have my WSI today. My focus became people with disabilities in aquatics and teaching and training others to do the same. What a marvel to have a marriage of 72 years! Jim and I celebrated 55 years on Thanksgiving; but he is now entering hospice care in Maryland due to his failing heart.
Love, from Pat Kurtz Ameling

Pat Kurtz Ameling - April 18, 2016 at 11:01 AM

BW

“ Dear Mr. Gillespie,
I am sorry to read of Mrs. Gillespie's death. You two shared a long and wonderful life. Since my Grandmother was a Sattes I feel a closer connection to you both. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.
Mr. Gillespie, I have many fond thoughts of you and your teaching gift. I have often mentioned you to my children as a great example of a talented and gifted teacher who had the ability to relate to middle schoolers and to give encouragement and challenges when needed. Thank you for being an influential part of my life.
Sincerely, Barbara Kirby Wheeler

Barbara Wheeler - April 18, 2016 at 09:40 AM

LD

“ *Lauri & Jenny McCormack, Jared Boicken, Anthony DeFurio purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Phyllis Blackwood Gillespie.*



Lauri & Jenny McCormack, Jared Boicken, Anthony DeFurio

- April 18, 2016 at 08:22 AM

LF

“ *My dear Frank and Greg, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you both and your extended family. Phyl was one of a kind and I am so grateful that she was a part of my life and a friend. We all spend so many wonderful summers at Tapawingo and she will always be a part of those beautiful memories. May you rest knowing that she is in His arms. Much love to you all!*

Les Norton Faulder - April 17, 2016 at 10:05 PM

FB

“ I was privileged to know Phyllis some 60 years and, while I was equally close to Frank, there was a bond between Phyllis and myself stemming from our special relationship at the beginning and end of camp seasons at Tapawingo. Frank's responsibilities in St. Albans generally truncated his time at camp, leaving it to Phyllis and me to open and close camp. This led to a life long appreciation on my part of Phyllis' endurance, practicality and many talents. She herself repeatedly told me of how important my words of welcome -- "Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie, I presume." (I apparently ignored Greg in the back of the station wagon.) -- were upon their first arrival at camp. We saw much of each other over the decades, in part because Phyl and Frank were my elder daughter's Godparents; more importantly, it was because we enjoyed each others' company immensely. Whether in Nitro, in church in St Albans, or at their cabin in Coon Creek, I drew strength and inspiration from Phyl and from Phyl and Frank together and the remarkable couple they constituted. May she rest in peace with God's Blessing.

Felix S. Bloch

felix s bloch - April 17, 2016 at 09:00 PM

BK

“ Greg, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Love and Blessings, Brenda Krumnow

Brenda Krumnow - April 17, 2016 at 06:05 PM

GG

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Phil's passing. She was such a big part of my life as a child growing up at Tapawingo. She taught me to swim, and to love the water. I can still hear her say Push, Glide, and Kick in her wonderful southern accent. My heart goes out to Frank, Greg and Janet and of course her grandchildren. She will be missed, but please know what an impact she had on so many of us from camp. Hers was a life well lived. For her and Frank to have been together for 72 years is just a testament to the love they had for each other and for life itself. My prayers are with you all.
Love,
Ginny (Norton) Grabill

Ginny Grabill - April 17, 2016 at 05:53 PM

JB

“ Thanks to Uncle Frank and Aunt Phyl for so many wonderful summers at Tapawingo! From early in life to young man when the camp closed, their guidance, encouragement, teaching, and support has always been a cornerstone of my life. John Booth, Jr.

John Booth - April 17, 2016 at 03:33 PM

LF

“ Dear Frank and Greg and family, I am so sorry to hear of Phyl's passing and please know you all are in my thoughts and prayers! She was a joy and wonderful woman and I am so proud to have called her my friend. The years at Tapawingo are still so strong in my heart and Phyllis was a huge part of that. So much of who I am today came from the love and precious moments we all spend on top of that beautiful mountain and the people like you all that taught me to love all things and people. May she rest in His strong arms now and please know she will be missed and I thank God for the memories of her and that very special time.

Les Norton Faulder - April 17, 2016 at 01:58 PM