



Emma Louise "Lou" Brown

August 12, 1926 - October 29, 2025

Emma Louise "Lou" Brown, 99, died peacefully on October 29, 2025. Lou was born on August 12, 1926, in Holden, West Virginia, daughter of Wilbur and Ethel Long. She was preceded in death by her parents, two older brothers, their wives, and one older sister, as well as the love of her life, Lacy William "Bill" Brown and her son, James William "Jimmy/JB" Brown. Lou is survived by her daughter, Patty Devens (Pat), JB's partner Miriam Rich, grandchildren Katy Devens Zamer (Craig), Kym Devens Gouker (Joel), Rick Devens (Becca), and Hannah Brown. She had seven great-grandchildren.

Lou met Bill at National Business College in Roanoke after attending Concord College for a year. She then worked for Appalachian Power Company before her marriage to Bill in 1949. The couple moved to Blacksburg, and, despite Bill's warning that coaches move a lot, they never left. Lou was a devoted coach's wife and active mother. She attended innumerable sports events from sandlot through college and enjoyed watching sports on television as well. She was a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout den mother, and Sunday School teacher. Lou was very talented: she sewed, knit, cross-stitched, crewel-embroidered, quilted, and more. She donated many of her knitted hats to the Christmas Store or food pantry, and her family never had cold ears. In 1963, Lou became secretary at the new Margaret Beeks Elementary School where

she remained for 23 years. Many people told her she was their first introduction to Blacksburg, and they appreciated her help and smiling face. After her retirement, she and Bill enjoyed 12 more years together, staying close to home or traveling to see children and grandchildren. Her best friend, Bill, died in 1997.

She was a member of Northside Presbyterian Church, serving as deacon and on numerous committees. She volunteered at Montgomery Regional Hospital for 10 years. She was an inspiration to many, growing older with dignity and always keeping a sense of humor. She will be greatly missed, but her loved ones are comforted to know that Bill and Jimmy are waiting for her at the pearly gates.

A funeral service will be held at Northside Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 22, at 10:00 am.

If you wish, you may send contributions to The Bill Brown Scholarship Fund, 613 Rose Avenue, Blacksburg, VA 24060, to help a Blacksburg High School student attend college, or to Northside Presbyterian Church, 1017 Progress Street NW, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Northside Presbyterian Church
1017 Progress Street NW
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Emma Louise "Lou" Brown.*



November 18, 2025 at 03:46 PM



“ *Mary Margaret and Randy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Emma Louise "Lou" Brown.*



Mary Margaret and Randy - November 11, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ *Dear Patty and family, I have many fond memories of your Mom. She worked closely with my Mom (Charlotte Beamer) at Margaret Beeks for so many years. I also remember your Dad at BHS. Lou was surely a role model for a life well lived. My condolences for your loss. But you will always have her spirit with you. With sympathy, Elizabeth Beamer Craig*

Elizabeth Craig - November 06, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Emma Louise "Lou" Brown.*



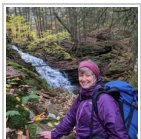
November 02, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ *As my dad's baby sister, Aunt Lou was the last survivor of my aunts and uncles. I was fortunate to have visited her at cousin Patty's house in Blacksburg in August, when I was surprised to see that she still possessed her memory and great sense of humor, even at 99 years' old. She was the devoted matriarch of her immediate family as well as that of her extended family. She never passed up a trip to her home roots in West Virginia to visit her nieces and nephews. I will always remember her as a loving and caring person who found genuine interest in everything around her. She was a shining light on earth; and will continue to be so in Heaven.*

John Long

John Long - October 31, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ *I first knew Lou (Mrs. Brown to me) when Patty and I were 3 years old riding our tricycles in the back of Winway apartments while our moms were hanging out clothes to dry. (My first memory). What a beautiful, caring neighbor she has been in the community. My prayers are with all the family at this time,*
Elaine Miller Dent

Elaine Dent - October 30, 2025 at 08:48 PM

MS

“ So very sorry to hear of Emma Lou’s death. She was my last remaining first cousin. What a lovely lady.
Mary Margaret Yapple Stenger

mary margaret stenger - October 30, 2025 at 08:09 PM

JS

“ So sorry to hear of Lou’s passing. She and Bill were very special to our family. We loved them both very much.

Jim Shockley - October 30, 2025 at 07:48 PM