



## Evelyn Graves West

August 12, 1922 - March 24, 2025

A most amazing woman, Evelyn Graves West, 102 years and 7 months young, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Monday, March 24, 2025. Born on August 12, 1922, in Hopkinsville, Ky, Evelyn was the daughter of the late George Campbell Graves and Mable Underwood Graves. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Frank T West, her parents, and her brother, George Campbell Graves, Jr.

Evelyn was a 1945 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and worked at Vanderbilt Hospital as a pediatric nurse. She received her Master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1949 and returned to Vanderbilt as a nursing supervisor. While at Vanderbilt she was in charge of three polio units, working with patients in iron lungs. She also had the honor of giving Bob Hope a tour of these units.

Evelyn and Frank married on June 6, 1950, and moved to Blacksburg in 1954 when Frank was offered a job as Industrial Arts teacher at Blacksburg High School. Evelyn worked as a volunteer nurse with Margaret Beeks Elementary School and worked at the polio vaccine clinics at BHS. She worked as a nurse and preschool teacher at Blacksburg United Methodist Preschool for 14 years. She then worked in the newborn nursery at Radford Community Hospital. After six months at the hospital, the director of nursing at Wytheville Community College approached her about joining the nursing faculty there

teaching pediatrics. Evelyn worked at WCC for 15 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus of Nursing in 1989.

Her nursing experiences included being secretary of the Virginia League of Nursing for four years, president of the VLN for two years, and serving several years as a part of the VLN Historical Committee.

After retiring, she and Frank worked the craft show circuit for several years as “Chips and Stitches”, selling woodworking items and hand-knitted or sewn items. She was especially known for her hand knitted baby sweaters and caps. Evelyn spent many years knitting caps for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Every year she donated between 125 and 173 caps for the MCCC. She had already knitted 35 in anticipation of this year before her passing. The New River Valley chapter of the DAR recognized her dedication to the MCCC in 2023.

She was a faithful member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church for almost 72 years. She served as a circle chair, secretary and president of United Methodist Women both on the local church and district level. She served in several other capacities including being active in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, founding the church's Health Closet, and knitting baptismal blankets for new babies in the church. It was not unusual to find her straightening up the pew materials after the 8:45 AM service in preparation for the 11:00 AM service and assisting with funeral receptions, making the bereaved families feel comfortable and making sure everything was in place for services honoring their loved ones. She was a member of Church Women United and was recognized by them as a Valiant Woman.

Her influence was felt by so many and none more than her beloved family. She is survived by her daughters, Karen Bell (Rodney), Elaine West-Watson (Jeff), Maggie Penix, and her heart-adopted daughter, Patricia Davis. In

addition, she leaves behind her grandchildren, Josh Bell (Asheley), Alex Penix (Heather), Lindsay Davis, William Penix, Claire Penix, Brian Davis (Mary-Katherine), Noel Land (Ryan), Kyle Watson (Katelyn), and Amelia West-Watson. Also mourning her loss are her great-grandchildren, Emerson and Maddox Bell, Noah Penix, Sloan Davis, Willow, Elijah and Ezekiel Land, and Rowan Watson. She is also survived by her sister, Margaret Burkhart, and nieces Nancy Smith (Jay), Donna DePriest (Robert), Jennifer Hook (Dean), and their families.

The family would like to give special thanks to the staff at Good Samaritan Hospice for their love and care of Evelyn, especially Teresa, Shannon, Karen, Sonu, and Todd, and to Robyn and workers at Caregiver Placement Services for their assistance with Evelyn. Eternal gratitude also is given to Evelyn's close friends, Sarah and Adam Salzberg, Novella Short, Andrea Muscatello, Charlie Sink, and Joyce Hopkins.

Visitation will be held at McCoy Funeral Home on Friday, March 28, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. A celebration of Evelyn's amazing life will be held at Blacksburg United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. The graveside service will be at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg. A reception at the church will follow the service at the graveside. Memorials may be made to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. The family requests that if you have been the recipient of a prayer shawl from this ministry, you wear it to the celebration of life service.

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Gardens

2880 N. Franklin Street  
Christiansburg, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home  
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 552-3211  
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net  
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blacksburg United Methodist Church  
111 Church Street SE  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ Evelyn and I shared many beloved visits, I always felt blessed just to be in her company. Her body may have aged but her wit and spirit did not. Not stubborn but independent. Please consider a contribution to Evelyn's most dedicated and loved Prayer Shawl Ministry.



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**Charles Sink** - March 28, 2025 at 07:48 PM

LF

“ Love, The Adams and Chatham families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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**Love, The Adams and Chatham families** - March 27, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 27, 2025 at 04:22 PM

LS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs West was my nursing instructor at Wytheville Community College (class of 1988) and I remember her kindness and patience with me as a student. She was a remarkable nurse and teacher.

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**Lorrie Saville** - March 27, 2025 at 11:19 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 27, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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March 27, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 27, 2025 at 10:01 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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March 27, 2025 at 10:01 AM

FF

“ Fisher's, Jimerson's and Franklin's purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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**Fisher's, Jimerson's and Franklin's** - March 27, 2025 at 09:59 AM

MA

“ Marty and Andrea purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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**Marty and Andrea** - March 27, 2025 at 09:09 AM

FS

“ Forsyth County SWAT purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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**Forsyth County SWAT** - March 26, 2025 at 04:29 PM

FS

“ Forsyth County SWAT planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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**Forsyth County SWAT** - March 26, 2025 at 04:29 PM

JA

“ Jennifer Adams purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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Jennifer Adams - March 26, 2025 at 01:31 PM

JA

“ Jennifer Adams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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Jennifer Adams - March 26, 2025 at 01:31 PM



“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 26, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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March 26, 2025 at 10:33 AM

DJ

“ Daryl and Cheryl Junk purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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**Daryl and Cheryl Junk** - March 26, 2025 at 10:17 AM

DJ

“ Daryl and Cheryl Junk planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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**Daryl and Cheryl Junk** - March 26, 2025 at 10:17 AM

DJ

“ Dear Davis and West families, Please accept our deepest condolences and our deepest gratitude for Evelyn's life. She was, as the beautiful obituary says, "a most amazing woman." We will miss all of you this weekend because we have an unbreakable conflict those days. Our hearts will be with you. With much love and many hugs, Daryl and Cheryl Junk, Orange County, NC

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**Daryl Junk** - March 26, 2025 at 09:59 AM

CT

“ I will always remember Evelyn for her hats at the Christmas Store. For the 2024 store, she made 140 hats! They were hats full of love. Prayers and love for all her family and friends.  
Carolyn Timberlake, Eligible Adults Department, Montgomery County Christmas Store.

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**Carolyn Timberlake** - March 25, 2025 at 09:20 PM

PD

“ Evelyn will live on through the many memories of her family. Our deepest sympathy and prayers of peace and comfort to all her loved ones. Will and Pat

Patricia Davis - March 25, 2025 at 07:52 PM

JG

“ Joye and Alan Groffman purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



Joye and Alan Groffman - March 25, 2025 at 07:22 PM

JG

“ Joye and Alan Groffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

Joye and Alan Groffman - March 25, 2025 at 07:22 PM

RD

“ Evelyn was one of the greatest women I have ever met. She will be missed.



Robyn Dawson - March 25, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.*



March 25, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

March 25, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ *Such a steady mama that we watched be strong for decades. You produced some pretty amazing kids Mrs West!*

**karen** - March 25, 2025 at 04:17 PM



“ *Martin, Nadia & The Carney Center staff purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Evelyn Graves West.*



**Martin, Nadia & The Carney Center staff** - March 25, 2025 at 03:51 PM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss! I recall both Evelyn and Frank as I was growing up. Frank led an usher team of high school students and I will never forget the kindness he exhibited but also the respect and honor to serve. That same soft spoken and loving demeanor was displayed by Evelyn. She always was so polite and spoke in a time of voice that was engaging. I think of both Frank and Evelyn as one of many friendships that helped frame my faith through actions more than words. Simply their presence and kindness nudged me along in the right direction for life. After reading the obituary, I can see fully the love and faith Evelyn held and the importance of serving others throughout her life. May the family find peace and grace as you celebrate her life!

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**John Bingham** - March 25, 2025 at 03:25 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 25, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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March 25, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 25, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 25, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Evelyn Graves West.



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March 25, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Evelyn Graves West.

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March 25, 2025 at 01:30 PM