



Kathleen June Mullins

August 30, 1946 - May 30, 2023

Kathleen June Mullins, 76, of Blacksburg, VA passed away May 30, 2023, surrounded by family. She was the daughter of the late Walter and Martha Tooke, cherished wife of Donald Mullins, and adored mother of Heather Crislip (Andrew) of Richmond and Aaron Mullins (Kara) of Fort Lauderdale. Grandmother of Grace Crislip, Renna Crislip, Fox Mullins, and Hart Mullins.

June was born in Pueblo, Colorado, on August 30, 1946, the daughter of a father who was an engineer and a mother who was a social worker. She shared her upbringing with her surviving twin sister Katherine Joan Harris of Eagle River, Alaska. Both sisters possessed a boundless artistic talent and June explored and employed that talent in all aspects of her life.

Upon graduating from Colorado State with a degree in physical sciences and chemistry she married Don after a long courtship that originated in their high school church youth group. They built a life together in Blacksburg as partners in many aspects of their lives for nearly 55 years.

Her artistic life embraced three themes: scientific and natural science illustration, humorous entomological caricature work, and in more recent years realism with a spiritual touch. She produced numerous scientific illustrations which appeared in published works and several textbooks. Her artwork was exhibited in local venues through several regional art associations. Two

notable exhibitions were “Cows, Inside and Out” and “32 Butterflies.” She labored over 32 Butterflies for a year as therapy following the April 16th, 2007 tragic shooting at Virginia Tech, and the ambitious piece has been utilized in many commemorations of the community heartbreak.

In addition to the art that anchored her life, her vocation was science. She earned a master’s degree in Dairy Science at Virginia Tech where she served as a laboratory specialist for over 20 years, specializing in microscopic and tissue culture techniques. She contributed in similar capacities at the Veterinary School, PPL Therapeutics, and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. She was a Master Naturalist, a member of Sigma XI, and an early member of the Guild for Natural Science Illustrators.

In her home, a love for animals offered an open invitation to dozens of rabbits, a 15-pound iguana, abundant home aquaria, and numerous cats and canines. Her favorites were Golden Retrievers and Corgis, and with her children raised one litter of each.

She participated as an active member in many community organizations, including the Blacksburg United Methodist Church, P.E.O. Chapter AH, Torch International, Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, Montgomery County 4-H, and the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

June had a keen sense of observation and was committed to untangling and resolving problems of all sizes. An active member of her book club, she pursued learning new perspectives and she was a bright spirit and tremendously warm person. She took great joy in her family, walking her dogs, canoeing, and camping.

Family visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 PM Friday, July 28 at the McCoy Funeral Home

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, July 29 at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. The service will be live-streamed at [<https://youtube.com/live/ApNMWmx0s-s?feature=share>]

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to PEO Chapter AH. Please include "In memory of June Mullins" (Send checks to: Cathy Stripling 132 3rd St NW, Pulaski, VA 24301), or to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Please include: "In memory of June Mullins" send checks to: Blacksburg United Methodist Church POB 931, Blacksburg, VA 24060) or online donations at [[https://newrivercommunityaction.org/IFP/donate/.](https://newrivercommunityaction.org/IFP/donate/)]

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel
150 Country Club Dr S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Memorial Service

JUL **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ McCoy Funeral Home Inc created a Kathleen June Mullins Memorial Service in memory of Kathleen June Mullins



McCoy Funeral Home Inc - July 20, 2023 at 02:08 PM

ND

“ Dearest Don and June’s family,
Thank you for allowing me share June’s lovely tribute. She was such a warm, wonderful and talented person, and she was my dear friend. There are so many fun memories from high school but one that June and I shared was exchanging our Bobbie Brooks skirts and sweaters in the bathroom between classes (and passing notes). We danced to the fabulous music of the 60s along with Joan and Tom, and Meme and Skip. She left us too soon and her passing leaves an emptiness in my heart. But the day of her service I was visited my the most beautiful butterfly! I love you June.
Nancy Jones Darby

Nancy Darby - August 01, 2023 at 05:24 PM

JC

“ I was privileged to work wiith her when I was a grad student at VT.



John Chandler - July 30, 2023 at 09:32 AM

LF

“ Laura F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen June Mullins.

Laura F. - July 25, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MS

“ Please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of June Mullins. She and Don were always such warm, smiling people at departmental functions. June always remembered to ask after our children. She will be missed!

Maggie Couvillon & Roger Schurch - July 25, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathleen June Mullins.



July 24, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ Very sorry to hear of the passing of June. I met her in 1992 when I started as a new graduate student at Virginia Tech. She and Don were both warm and welcoming people who made everyone feel like family in the Entomology Department. Something that I will never forget. June also illustrated a figure for one of my first published papers. Wonderful lady and artist; she will certainly be missed.

Thomas Kuhar - June 12, 2023 at 09:31 AM

TS

“ June and Don warmly greeted us after the Methodist church service when we arrived for our sabbatical. They showed us around town, gave us vegetables and made sure we quickly became a part of their Sunday school class. We still join by zoom whenever we can, now 11 years later. June was always warm and welcoming to all and a wonderful nonjudgmental listener. We wish Don, their family and all their many friends comfort and shared fond memories in their grieving. Peace, Tom Sibley and Jennifer Galovich

Thomas Q Sibley - June 05, 2023 at 02:13 PM

JC

“ We were completely surprised and deeply saddened to read of the sudden passing of Kathleen June Mullins. She was always the most gracious and kind host to us whenever we would return to Blacksburg after our move to Japan in 2000. Her meals were always delicious and presented beautifully. We enjoyed seeing her artwork and learning about her work each time we visited. She and Masayo seemed to have found kindred spirits in each other during those years also. We count ourselves very fortunate to have one more visit with her last year, as the Covid pandemic finally began to abate and we were able to make our first visit back since the pandemic. It is hard to believe we will not be able to see her again.

With our deepest condolences to Don, my long-time colleague in Mali work, and her children Aaron and Heather and grandchildren.

*John and Masayo Caldwell,
Tsukuba, Japan
(formerly Blacksburg, Virginia)*

John S. Caldwell - June 05, 2023 at 10:16 AM

BH

“ June and Don were students at VaTech in 1967 when we were there. Our children were infants and toddlers then. A special memory is of a mobile that June made and brought over when our youngest daughter was born. Somehow we have kept in touch all these years. We saved every Christmas card because of June's unique insect festive artwork. We will really miss June. Love,
Beverly & Woody

Bev Hartgrove - June 03, 2023 at 03:58 PM