



Dawn Fuqua McElrath Gill

FEB 6, 1927 - DEC 20, 2019



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Dawn Fuqua McElrath Gill

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Gill, Dawn Fuqua McElrath, of Roanoke, died Friday, December 20th peacefully in her home. Born in Lowry February 6, 1927, she was the daughter of the late John Jesse McElrath and the late Eugenia Hortense Fuqua McElrath Cox. Her husband, Frank Preston Gill of forty-six years, predeceased her. Survivors include her twin sister, Ann McElrath Quinn of Charlottesville, VA; her son, Edward Lee Gill and wife Linda Fabian Gill of Vinton, VA; Pamela Ann Gill Flaherty and husband, Thomas Francis Flaherty, Fort Myers Beach, Florida; grandsons, Robert Preston Gill, James Edward Gill, Thomas Francis Flaherty V, and granddaughter Katharine Elaine Flaherty Yang. Dawn's studies included a Biology degree from Mary Washington University, her training as a physical therapist during her service with the US Army, and a Masters in Botanical Ecology from Radford University. She pursued a military assignment as a physical therapist with the US Army. Later in life, she shared her joy of nature while teaching Biology for 26 years at Virginia Western Community College. She will be remembered for her lifelong respect for all things natural, from birding to camping to energy conservation and especially wildflowers. In her day, she was involved in many organizations: multiple bird clubs, Virginia Native Plant Society, the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society, Jungian Society, the Virginia Western Arboretum, the Guinness Guild, the Horticultural Club, the Bedford Historical Society and the National Association of Biology Teachers. A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church on Tuesday, January 7th at 2 pm. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 2 pm at Culpeper National Cemetery with military honors provided by Culpeper VFW Post 2524. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Community Arboretum at Virginia Western, Christ Episcopal Church or the Rescue Mission.



Events

Dawn Fuqua McElrath Gill

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Memorial Service

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Christ Episcopal Church
Roanoke VA



Graveside Service

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

2:00 PM ET

Culpeper National Cemetery (New)
501 East Chandler Street, Culpeper VA 22701



Cemetery Details

Culpeper National Cemetery (New)
501 East Chandler Street, Culpeper VA 22701





Tribute Wall

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Linda Cory posted:

Dawn was a special lady. She and I bird watched together including a week-long birding identification class in Tennessee. I used to visit her when I worked on Brambleton Avenue and she was always a gracious host. She had fun stories including knowing Dave Matthews before he made it big. I'll miss her. Linda Cory, Roanoke VA

January 19 at 4:51 PM



Teri Gautier posted:

I have good memories of spending time with Dawn. We took a road trip together and had a great visit with her sister, Ann. During that 4 days, I was surrounded by 86 year old women, and I was amazed at their energy and good fun! It is a delightful memory. And, most importantly, Dawn instilled in me to - use a plate!, and I no longer have a muffin with a napkin. I am always using a plate and smiling at Dawn. Big hug and love, Teri Gautier

January 3 at 6:52 AM



Teri Gautier lit a candle in honor of Dawn.



January 3 at 6:49 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dawn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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