



Sybil Royster Zava

March 26, 1924 - August 29, 2018

Sybil Royster Zava passed away August 29, at home in Oak Ridge. She was born in Victoria (Lunenburg County), Virginia on March 26, 1924. Sybil graduated with from Victoria High School in 1941 and attended business school in Richmond, Virginia. In June 1944, Sybil married Thomas Eugene Zava. Sybil's parents, William Henry Royster and Virginia Howerton Royster, each came from a family of farmers. She inherited a love for working in the soil and enjoyed gardening and studying/collecting wildflowers. Sybil worked at home for many years before working at ORTEC and Oak Ridge High School as a secretary. In 1984 she devoted full time to travelling and gardening with her husband, Tom. Sybil was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Eugene Zava, parents William Henry Royster and Virginia Howerton Royster, sisters Josephine Barnes, Sadie Terry, and brother, Elliott Royster. She is survived by her daughter Andrea Zava and husband Dan Wilson; sons David Zava and wife Sherri; and, Bill Zava and wife Lauren. Sybil is also survived by her grandchildren Clay Zava and wife Katharyn (Wilmington, NC), Ted Zava, Corinna Zava Millar and husband Nathan (Portland, OR); Emily Taylor and husband Reggie (Memphis, TN); Louis Zava, June Zava (Germantown, TN); Dana Wilson Litke and husband Andrew (Falls Church, VA); and great grandchildren Mathea and Hallie Zava (Mother Cynthia Marcusson) (Chapel, NC), Penelope and Vivienne Zava (Wilmington, NC); Rowan Taylor (Memphis, TN); Esme Zava (Germantown, TN); and, Rebekah Litke (Falls Church, VA). Sybil is also survived by many nieces and nephews from the Barnes, Terry, Zava, Royster, and Garrett families in Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina. Sybil was a member of First Baptist Church, volunteering as Sunday School Teacher and assisting Tom in his deacon responsibilities. Sybil did extensive genealogy research on her family history which led to membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution. She devoted many hours conducting tours and doing grounds maintenance for the Bleak House in Knoxville (United Daughters of the Confederacy). Sybil was one of very few real Granddaughters in UDC. She enthusiastically embraced square and round dancing, gardening, wildflower trips, sewing, couponing, and traveling through all of the continental United States. The family is extremely grateful for the excellent and special care she received from Jerry Lindsay, Teresa Dixson, Dana Harding, and Linda Holt all of whom had a very special place in Sybil

and Tom's heart. Receiving of friends will be at Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge from 12:30-2:30 on Saturday, September 8. Graveside service will be following at 3:00 at Anderson Memorial Gardens. If you wish, memorials may be made for Sybil to yhe charity of your choice. Online messages may be left for the family at www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com. Services entrusted to Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home 865-483-4341

Comments



“ Such a dear, sweet friend who will be deeply missed!

We enjoyed having Tom and Sybil as our very special neighbors on Normandy Road in Oak Ridge - always gracious and always available when we needed advice, help, or just time in their back yard. We loved teasing Sybil about always having Tom move plants from one place to another and then back to their original spot, as well as often serving Tom a hot dog for lunch. And who can forget all those garage sales....

We were blessed a few years ago with a visit from Sybil (and Jerry) to our home in Hilton Head.

Our love to Andi, Bill, David, and all of Sybil's family.

Ron and Jo'anna Bradley

Jo'anna Bradley - September 12, 2018 at 08:01 AM



“ Very early memory of being told, again, to "Get down from there! You're not supposed to climb the apple tree!" And Mrs. Zava explaining why, answering my questions, we even talked about how one could climb an apple tree without breaking its branches. So patient with me...she will be missed!
Mary Anne Olsen Tice

Mary Anne Tice - September 09, 2018 at 12:33 AM



“ Bill and Family, Judy and I send our thoughts and prayers. Louie and Judy Finley

Louie Finley - September 08, 2018 at 01:34 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Sybil Royster Zava.



September 05, 2018 at 09:15 PM



“ Michael and Rosemary Zava purchased the Pink & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Sybil Royster Zava.



Michael and Rosemary Zava - September 05, 2018 at 01:49 PM



“ Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Standing Basket was purchased for the family of Sybil Royster Zava.



September 04, 2018 at 06:02 PM



“ Mrs Sybil & Mr Tom were always so kind to me. My most prominent memories are seeing them working in the flower beds and gardens at Bleak House. They loved gardening and they had such a gift for it. I feel honored to have known them -- I will be praying for your family during this time of mourning. God Bless Y'all.

Rebecca - September 04, 2018 at 03:22 PM