



Mrs. Julia Billingsley Redfearn Hopkins

September 11, 1919 - September 9, 2017

Julia Billingsley Redfearn Hopkins of Laurel Crest Retirement Center passed away peacefully on September 9, 2017. "Billie", as she was affectionately known by family and friends, was the beloved widow of Julian Pelham Hopkins. Her graveside funeral service will be private. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is serving the family.

Born September 11, 1919, in Hartsville, SC, Billie was the youngest child of Hogan Hampton Redfearn and Julia Billingsley Redfearn. She attended Greenville Women's College, now Furman University, and graduated in 1940. While at GWC, she and her friends enjoyed modeling for the Ivey's and Myers-Arnold Department Stores; particularly hats and formal attire. It was also during college that she met her future husband, Julian P. Hopkins. They married on December 20, 1942, while Julian was in flight training and before he embarked to Europe for combat service in the Army Air Corps during World War II. They enjoyed a marriage of 66 years.

Billie became a teacher after college and especially enjoyed teaching second grade. She taught both in South Carolina and later in California. As a military wife, Billie made homes around the United States and abroad. She was active in many Officers Wives Club charity and scholarship fund raising events and also served as a Red Cross "Gray Lady" in military hospitals.

When retirement beckoned, Billie and Julian returned to South Carolina and lived in Chesterfield and on Fripp Island. They renewed many old 'Carolina' friendships and were able to return to their Baptist roots in the Chesterfield Baptist Church. Billie held a deep faith and contributed to her church as a Circle Leader, Sunday School teacher and with Vacation Bible School programs. Also in retirement, she and Julian traveled extensively around the US, Canada, Alaska, the Galapagos, Baja California and Europe. They especially appreciated educational travel opportunities.

Billie was an accomplished china painter, interior decorator, gardener, and grandmother. Her interests were diverse and she took great pleasure in learning. She made her home a

place of hospitality where friendships could be developed, the family could be enjoyed and people were comfortable. She will be remembered for telling everyone, "The latch is always on the outside." Her beautiful smile, twinkling eyes, and zest for life will stay with her family for years to come.

Her greatest pleasure was found in her grandchildren. She adored them and in return, they loved spending time with "Billie and Hoppy". Whether decorating the Christmas tree or building sandcastles, her grandsons found joy with their grandparents. Late in life she and Julian were blessed to have a granddaughter in the family.

Billie is survived by her daughter, Julia, and son-in-law, Harold W. Mills, Jr. of Columbia, SC and by her son, James, and daughter-in-law, Jane F. Hopkins of Saratoga, CA. Additionally, she is survived by grandsons, Lt.Col. David H. Mills, USMC, his wife, Christine, and their children Kai, Katarina and Gray of Yucca Valley, CA and Lt.Col. Andrew H. Mills, USMC, his wife, Moira, and their children Braeden and Emerson of San Diego, CA and by a granddaughter, Caitlin S. Hopkins of Saratoga, CA.

In addition to her husband and parents, Billie was predeceased by her brothers James B. Redfearn, Sr., Benjamin H. Redfearn and Theron Lee Redfearn and by her beloved sister, Margaret R. Presson.

The family wishes to thank the entire Laurel Crest family and particularly the staff of the health care center for their compassionate and loving care toward "Mama Billie". The family is overwhelmed with gratitude for their warm and sincere concern. In addition, Lighthouse Hospice and Right at Home have been a blessing to the family.

Memorials may be made to the Laurel Crest Endowment Trust, 100 Joseph Walker Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169 or to The Smile Train, P.O.Box 96231, Washington DC 20090-6231.

Comments



“ Julia, So very sorry to see the red rose at Laurel Crest in memory of Mrs. Hopkins. I will miss seeing you but will keep you & your family in my prayers. May God give you comfort & peace in the days ahead. Stella McGee



Stella McGee - September 15, 2017 at 05:53 PM



“ Julia and Harold and family, just want you to know that I have been thinking about you and "praying without ceasing." MY heart is heavy so I can only imagine how you feel. Thank you for letting Mama know. We loved Aunt Billie and shall never forget her love and thoughtfulness for me and mine. I remember as if it was yesterday going to Chesterfield for the big anniversary celebration for them. Never was there a dearer couple. May God's unfailing love give you comfort and peace. My love and sympathy, Jane Timmerman Ames

Jane Timmerman Ames - September 13, 2017 at 02:56 PM



“ I have fond memories of Mrs. Hopkins and the Colonel during their retirement years in Chesterfield. They served the community in many capacities including their active membership in Chesterfield Baptist Church. I had many enjoyable conversations with them over those years and missed them when they moved to Columbia. Libby and I send our sincere condolences to the family and will remember you in our prayers.

Tommy Atkinson - September 12, 2017 at 11:04 PM