



Sandra Lee Ritter Bowen

September 7, 1946 - November 30, 2020

It is with both sadness and joy that we announce that Sandra Lee Ritter Bowen, 74, of Stephens City, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Born September 7, 1946 in Winchester to Clinton and Peggy Carson Ritter, Sandy grew up in Kernstown and graduated from James Wood High School in 1964. She received an Associate of Arts degree from Ferrum College, a Bachelor of Arts from Bridgewater College, and a Master's in Education from the University of Virginia. For 31 years she was a beloved elementary school teacher, primarily teaching third grade. She taught at five different elementary schools over the course of her career, including: E. Wilson Morrison and Leslie Fox Keyser in Warren County, Apple Pie Ridge in Frederick County, and Freedom Hill and Dranesville in Fairfax County. She held her students to high standards and created an engaging classroom, where she loved reading to her students, teaching cursive, telling stories, and taking them on field trips. In the 1980s, she annually hosted all third-grade students at her family farm for hayrides, games, and lunch. She mentored and served as a guiding hand to new teachers.

In spite of life's challenges, Sandy maintained a zest for life and a positive outlook. She enjoyed playing golf, reading novels and watching movies. She was a certified scuba diver and was also an avid radio operator as a member of both the FCC Amateur Radio League and the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. She was an active church member throughout her life and most

recently attended Macedonia United Methodist Church in Stephens City. Her children recall how she loved to sing and how moving a voice she had when she performed at church services and other events. She was known as "Nana" by her beloved grandchildren, who remember her kindness and affinity for telling her childhood stories. Among her dear friends, Sandy was known for her strength, her wonderful sense of humor and her ability to encourage others. She worked tirelessly to help others with their physical needs, but even more than that was passionate about helping others to work through personal challenges and grow closer to the Lord. She impacted many through her story of hope and perseverance.

She is survived by her children, Edward Bowen, III of Lawrence, KS, and Mary Chiu and her husband Jonathan of Purcellville; grandchildren, Samuel and Lily Chiu; brother Clinton Ritter, Jr. (Debbie) of Winchester, George Ritter (Sherry) of Front Royal and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Her daughter, Carrie Virginia Bowen, and a brother, Leslie Daniel Ritter preceded her in death.

A service will be 2:00 pm Saturday June 5, 2021 in Macedonia United Methodist Church, 1941 Macedonia Church Rd, White Post, VA 22663 officiated by Reverend Keith Ritchie. Burial will follow the service in the Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Sandy's name can be made to the Blue Ridge Hospice at 333 W. Cork St. Winchester, VA 22601.

Previous Events

Service

JUN 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Macedonia United Methodist Church
1941 Macedonia Church Road
White Post, VA 22663

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Tardy but sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Sandy, fellow member of James Wood Class of 1964, and distant Ritter cousin. Lift up her years of successful teaching and faith in illness.
Mary Miller Froehlich

Mary Miller Froehlich - January 20, 2021 at 12:20 PM



“ I had the pleasure of calling her a friend for 40 yr. He children great up with my 2 oldest. Mary is the godmother to my grand daughter. Sandy raised beautiful loving children and was an amazing person. I will miss her, our visits and words of prayers

Kathi Clevenger - December 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM

GR

“ Some of my best memories of Sandy were when we were teenagers. I always enjoyed her company. She was talented, smart and funny. I caught up with her again at a reunion a few years back and she made laugh once more. We will miss her.

Greg Ritter - December 09, 2020 at 04:55 PM

AD

“ Sandy attended JWHS and graduated the year ahead of me. She was a beautiful young lady and a great student. I worked on the play committee and recall her outstanding performance. She stole the show. I am sure that she adlibbed some lines. Her makeup was perfect. Precious lady who fought a valiant fight against a mean enemy. So thankful that she is celebrating with the Saints in heaven.

Anita Louise Dick - December 08, 2020 at 11:34 AM

AH

“ Mrs. Bowen was my third grade teacher. I was dealing with bullies and emotional/behavioral problems and she was nothing but compassionate and loving towards me. She made me feel safe and loved when everything seemed to be against me. One thing she'd do with her classes, and even former students, was invite everyone out to whatever family movie was in theaters at the time. I especially remember seeing the Narnia movies with her. She did her best to make everyone in her classes feel included in a big family. I'll miss her, but I'll keep everything she taught me close to my heart.



Ashley Hardin - December 04, 2020 at 08:54 AM

GT

“ Sandy and I graduated JWHS in 1964. She was a vibrant sweet girl and I will always remember her smile and antics. Sad to say I never saw her again as I left Winchester right after graduation and only returned occasionally to see family over these many decades, we did however get together on Face Book the past couple of years. I was praying she would beat this insidious disease/illness but GOD saw best and took her home where she is now pain free. Condolences to the family.

Gerald (Butch) Triplett - December 01, 2020 at 03:13 PM

BB

“ *Family and Friends,
So very sorry. She will be greatly missed.
We go back to childhood when we meet in church and school. She
was like a sister to me. her mother treated me like her own.
And I dearly loved her also. So many good memories were
her and her family. Heaven has gotten a Special Angel.
God Bless all.*

Betty Smith Benegar

Betty Smith Benegar - November 30, 2020 at 08:00 PM

MR

“ *Sorry to hear of Sandra passing. She was a wonderful person and
surely will be missed. Condolences to the family. See you all soon.
Marshall Jr.*

Marshall Ritter - November 30, 2020 at 02:43 PM

CK

“ *Sandy and I earned our Amateur Radio licenses close to the same
time, and were members of the same club. There were few women
in the hobby at the time, and Sandy was always friendly. We
connected over our common interests, and the fact that we were
both teachers. I lost touch with her through multiple life changes,
and am sorry to learn of her passing. Earth has lost an angel, but
heaven has gained one.*

Christine Kestner - November 30, 2020 at 11:02 AM