



Mrs. Virginia "Ginny" Bowman

March 30, 1940 - August 13, 2020

Mrs. Virginia "Ginny" Bowman, 80, of Pittsfield, passed away at home on Thursday, August 13, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Pittsfield, MA, on March 30, 1940, the daughter of the late Gordon and Viola Mellquist Vallin, she graduated from Pittsfield High School. After a year of college, and several years of living across the US and Germany, Ginny returned to Pittsfield and spent the rest of her life in the family home.

Ginny worked as an administrative assistant at Berkshire Community College for over 30 years, retiring in 2002. The achievement of which she was most proud was being a great mother. She also enjoyed traveling, various crafts, baking, decorating for the holidays (every holiday) and spending time in the summers with family and friends at Plunkett Lake in Hinsdale. A devoted advocate for dog rescue, she was known as the Pug Lady in her neighborhood, having taken in and loved nine pugs over the years.

Besides her son James Bowman, of Pittsfield, her daughter Elizabeth "Betsy" Burtis and son-in-law John Burtis, of Derry, NH, she is survived by her grandson Andrew (A.J.) Bowman, who was the light of her life, and her final rescue dog, Eddie.

Funeral Notice:

There will be no formal funeral services for Ms. Virginia Bowman. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to the Berkshire Humane Society at their website or in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Dear Betsy and Jim,

I'm not sure if you remember me, but I took care of your mom's three pugs for many months some years ago when she was in the hospital so she could keep her babies and they would be there when she finally returned home. I thought of your mom fondly and had a conversation with her from time to time over the years. She was a dear lady and I will always be grateful that I was able to help your mom and you both during that time. I am so sorry for your loss.

*Maryann
Reliable Pet Sitting*

Maryann Hyatt - August 26, 2020 at 12:58 PM



Maryann, we spoke about you just a couple days before mom passed. We were trying to figure out how to manage Eddie the pug with caregivers coming and going and mom wondered if you might be around. She ended up passing so quickly once she got home that it wasn't needed, but she was always so grateful for the help you provided to keep her pets safe and cared for when she couldn't do it herself. Thank you for your note and for your help over the years.

Betsy Burtis - August 27, 2020 at 09:17 PM

KS

“ Putnam Ave. has lost a great one. Still remember Ginny’s and Vi’s smiling Swedish faces when we moved in across the street. Ginny was more than a neighbor, she was a dear friend. Many wonderful memories of 4th of July at the lake, the crazy pugs, taking road trips to find the perfect lunch spot, all the QVC deliveries. Ginny was warm, compassionate and generous.

*Rest In Peace,
Kathy and Steve*

Kathy Sosnowski - August 26, 2020 at 10:07 AM



Kathy and Steve, I had intended to be in touch to let you know before the obituary was posted and am so sorry the time got away from me. My mother cherished her special friends in the neighborhood. Now she and Vera can sit and have chats again.

Betsy Burtis - August 27, 2020 at 09:21 PM

SK

“ Ginny was an important part of my life when I started BCC - first as a student. She became my facebook friend after her retirement. I will miss her kind words and her gentle way of sharing wisdom. The good lord will embrace this angel. She will be missed. 🙏🙏



Sandra Ketcham - August 26, 2020 at 03:08 AM



Sandra, thank your for your note.Having been at BCC for so many years, I knew there were many lives my Mom had touched. She would be so pleased to read your kind words.

Betsy Burtis - August 27, 2020 at 09:26 PM

SP

“ A wonderfully fun cousin! All the cool memories are flooding back now - especially Ginny's laugh. Mostly memories of summers at Plunkett Lake in the cottage with an unpredictable toilet and slanted floors. The always stocked freezer with ice cream treats; card games on the porch, waving to all the neighbors in their boats; hot dogs, s'mores and endless corn on the cob (my job was shucking); canoe trips to the small island; diving off the float. Thank you, Ginny, for all this fun! Loved my times with you, 'Cuz!

Susan

susan pendleton - August 25, 2020 at 03:18 PM



Those memories of special times together will stay with us all. Thanks for sharing, Susan!

Betsy Burtis - August 27, 2020 at 09:28 PM

EV

To my other sister, Betsy.....you know how special your mom was to me over the course of 45 years, first as my boss at B.C.C and then as my long-time, long-distance friend. No matter how much time passed, we could always strike up the best conversations in minutes! And I loved, loved, loved, that she called me "her other daughter Betsy." I will cherish all the memories I have of her over the years but a few stand out in my mind: making those Christmas mice (I still have the first one she made for me and I've made a ton to give away since then), eating dessert in her living room, visiting her cottage on the lake with my two young boys and, of course, her beautiful laugh. My condolences to you and your brother. She will be sorely missed..... Much love across the miles.....

Elizabeth Viator - September 01, 2020 at 03:08 PM