



Nancy Elizabeth Jessee

January 7, 1924 - October 20, 2013

RICHLANDS – Nancy Elizabeth Thomason Jessee, who had been a mother, homemaker, registered nurse and retail worker in Richlands for 65 years, died Sunday, Oct. 20, at Claypool Hill, with her loving daughter, Nancy, at her side. She was 89 years old.

Lib was the widow of Robert Ira “Bob” Jessee, who died on April 21; they had been married for 67 years.

A memorial service for Lib and Bob will be held Wednesday at Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands. The family will receive visitors at 1 p.m., followed by the service at 2 p.m.

Lib grew up in Martinsville, one of four children of Robert Wiley Thomason and Lillian Gertrude Williams Thomason. She graduated from Martinsville High School and went to Roanoke to pursue a medical career at the Lewis-Gale School of Nursing.

While attending nursing school, she met Bob, a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Force who was traveling by train between Richlands and Langley Field. They stayed in touch while he was in England during World War II.

Lib graduated from Lewis-Gale and found a job as a registered nurse at

Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. When Bob returned from the war, he went to Nashville and proposed. She accepted and they were married in Rossville, Ga.

Bob was attending Emory and Henry College. Lib went to work for Dr. R.L. Hillman, a general practitioner who served the college and the community. When one of Dr. Hillman's patients went into labor, he and Lib would go to the patient's house and deliver the baby there.

Exactly one year after she and Bob were married, Lib participated in a home birth of her own, in the upstairs front bedroom of a house across the railroad tracks from the Emory and Henry campus – in the middle of a blizzard – and Randy was born.

The young family moved in 1948 to Richlands, where Lib worked for a short time as a floor nurse at the former Clinch Valley Clinic Hospital. She was the worrier in the family, so her concerns about the people she cared for came home with her. Later in life, the children would learn that when they were traveling, Lib was sitting at home, calculating where they were and watching the clock and waiting for the "We're here" call.

Although she gave up fulltime nursing, Lib retained one important piece of medical equipment: her very own hypodermic needle. For years, when members of the family needed allergy shots or vitamin injections, Lib would boil her syringe and administer the prescribed medication.

The family moved from the Dalton Addition to Lee Street in the early 1950s. Tom and Nancy were born in the years that followed, both at Mattie Williams Hospital. The lights of the delivery room were clearly visible from the house on the hill, and Lib's mother was saying, "That's where your brother (or sister) is being born."

In the late 1960s, Lib decided to go back to work and took a job at Cury's clothing store. She was apprehensive but she turned out to be a natural for the work. From A.B. and Regina Cury, she learned how to assess a customer's needs and to recognize new items that would be perfect for a particular customer. She thrived on the daily contact with friends and customers on Front Street.

When Bob retired, Lib kept working for a time but gradually eased into retirement as well. They took up golf at Wolf Creek Golf Club in Bastian.

Lib loved the regular gatherings of her Rook club and taking trips to the Barter Theater in Abingdon and Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre in Wytheville. As recently as 2001, she took a bus tour to New York City for several days of sightseeing and Broadway shows.

When all of the children were at home, family vacations at Hungry Mother State park were a favorite activity; in later years, she enjoyed stays at Pipestem State Park.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Richlands.

In addition to her husband and parents, Lib was preceded in death by her brothers, James Grady Thomason and William Randolph Thomason.

She is survived by three children, Nancy Alice Jessee Henderson of Richlands and her husband, Dean; Robert Thomason Jessee of Holden Beach, N.C., and his wife, Janice; and James Randolph Jessee of Glen Allen, Va., and his wife, Leslie-Jean; and a sister, Louise W. Grigg of Martinsville.

Also, four grandchildren, Patrick Randolph Jessee of Purcellville, Va., and his wife, Stacy; Kelley Erin Jessee of Falls Church, Va.; Christopher Matthew Jessee of Roanoke, and his fiancé, Brandy Gray; and Kristen Elizabeth Henderson-Jackson of Council, and her husband, Neil.

Also, two great-grandchildren, Tyler Warren Jessee and Claire Elizabeth Jessee, both of Purcellville, Va.; a niece, Mary Margaret Grigg of Martinsville; and a nephew, John Grigg of Aruba.

Also, her caregivers, Barb Coleman, Ashley Dye, Sandra Casey, Angel Stilwell and Judy Stilwell; and close friends, Fay and Ray Ryan, Patricia Wade, Christine Hooker, Rod Cury, Barbara Wilson, Lucy Hunter, Jane Mulkey, Valerie Hurt and Stephanie McVey.

The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to First United Methodist Church, Richlands; the Good Samaritan Food Pantry; the Southwest Virginia Community College Foundation; the American Cancer Society; the Tazewell County Animal Shelter; or a favorite charity.

The family extends its thanks to the staff of Legacy Hospice and Mayfair House.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Nancy and family,
My condolences to you and the recent passing of your mother as well as your father earlier this year. Mrs. Jessee was a fine lady - she was always friendly, kind, and respectful of me, whether it was being in Cury's store or some event or activity with the RHS band.
Peace,
Charlie Steele*

Charlie Steele - October 25, 2013 at 12:26 PM



“ *Mr.&Mrs. Jesse was some of the sweetest people we have every known they was so good to our family's (Aldridge) we love them dearly our prayers r with the family*

Sandy Aldridge Brown - October 24, 2013 at 02:29 PM

SL

“ Nancy, I just got back in town and saw that the service for Bob and Lib was today. Lisa and I loved your mom and dad dearly, and I really enjoyed my years working with Bob. They were the ones who invited us to FUMC when we first moved to Richlands.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sam Lewis

Sam Lewis - October 23, 2013 at 09:40 PM

 Sandra Johnson

“ Sandra Johnson lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee



Sandra Johnson - October 23, 2013 at 05:03 PM

CH

“ Nancy, So sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom. This is certainly one of the hardest parts of life as we get older. My Mom is still with Phillip and me and is totally bedridden. She is so precious to me!! The Lord can give you strength during this difficult time.
Love, Carolyn Ratliff Horton

Carolyn Ratliff Horton - October 23, 2013 at 10:34 AM

KN

“ *Mr & Mrs Jessee were the most memorable and dear nieghbors we ever had the priviledge to share moments with. The family made us feel welcome. We have been out of the area for five years but we often remember their kindness. Our hearts are heavy but Heaven is fortunate to have two graceful angels. Our sincere condolonces to the family.*

Kevin & Nita Pickerel

Kevin and Nita - October 23, 2013 at 07:40 AM

TM

“ *Tom And Dot McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Tom and Dot McGlothlin - October 23, 2013 at 05:41 AM

LS

“ *Linda Shreve lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Linda Shreve - October 22, 2013 at 11:09 PM

JD

“ *Jeanne And Jady Daniels lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Jeanne and Jady Daniels - October 22, 2013 at 10:00 PM

CD

“ Bob and Lib were among our favorite people at Richlands First United Methodist Church when we were pastor there 1979-1983. They were both sweet people and a joy to be around. Betty always enjoyed shopping with Lib at Cury's. Our sincere condolences to all the family. May God bless and comfort you.

Clarence and Betty Dishman

Clarence & Betty Dishman - October 22, 2013 at 08:24 PM

JS

“ Lib was a wonderful person I loved her so much it hurts me to not see her smiling face she was a lovely lady. She never had anything bad to say about anyone. Bob was a very sweet, kind hearted man. I miss them both dearly.

Judy Stilwell

Judy Stilwell - October 22, 2013 at 07:04 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Judy Stilwell - October 22, 2013 at 07:01 PM

PC

“ *PAT COOLEY lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



PAT COOLEY - October 22, 2013 at 12:33 PM

CS

“ *Charlotte, Sam & Family And Anita Short lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Charlotte, Sam & Family and Anita Short - October 22, 2013 at 09:50 AM

SC

“ *Slick And Bonnie Cook lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Slick and Bonnie Cook - October 22, 2013 at 09:07 AM

SH

“ *Susie Hess lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



susie Hess - October 22, 2013 at 08:19 AM

SH

“ *Lib was always one of my favorite people. I loved to talk to her at curls. She had such a sweet and kind voice. she will be missed by many people. my deepest condolences to the family.*
Susie hess

susie Hess - October 22, 2013 at 08:16 AM

RK

“ *Roy & Jill Kinder lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Roy & Jill Kinder - October 22, 2013 at 07:07 AM

DM

“ *Donna Miller lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Donna Miller - October 22, 2013 at 06:58 AM

AS

“ *I loved this woman dearly. she shared many words of wisdom with me throughout all the time I was honored to care for her. I will never forget all the precious memories I got to share with her. Love you a bushel and a peck my Libby. I know you and Bob are in paradise and that makes me smile.*

Angel Stilwell - October 21, 2013 at 10:45 PM

PS

“ *Peggy Sparks lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Peggy Sparks - October 21, 2013 at 09:46 PM

LS

“ *Lloyd And Debbie Sizemore lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Lloyd and Debbie Sizemore - October 21, 2013 at 09:11 PM

AM

“ *Anita McGlothlin-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee*



Anita McGlothlin-Gibson - October 21, 2013 at 09:10 PM

AM

With deep fondness, I will always remember Lib and her sweet smile and heartfelt kindness.

Anita McGlothlin-Gibson - October 21, 2013 at 09:12 PM

Nancy Helmke

“ I was so sad to hear of Lib's passing. I saw her when I was last in Richlands. She remembered so many things about my childhood and shared memories with me. She and Bob were great neighbors to all of us, Hunters. I liked to make her laugh and I can still hear her laughter. She will be sorely missed, but what a grand homecoming she and Bob are having in Heaven. I know that Fig Newtons are being shared there....

Nancy Helmke - October 21, 2013 at 07:32 PM

VS

“ Valerie Stanton lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee



Valerie Stanton - October 21, 2013 at 06:19 PM

TF

“ Tillie France lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee



Tillie France - October 21, 2013 at 06:18 PM

NJ

“ Naomi And Bill Ray Joyce lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee



Naomi and Bill Ray Joyce - October 21, 2013 at 03:34 PM

NJ

Randy, Tom and Nancy, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Naomi and Bill Ray Joyce.

Naomi and Bill Ray Joyce - October 21, 2013 at 03:39 PM

PW

“ Nancy

Please accept my sincere and deepest sympathy to you and your family. Your Mother was a beautiful rose and a wonderful person. Loved your Mother. We have known your family for many years and you are very precious to us. We were neighbors for many years and attended the Methodist Church together for many years. Just want you to know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Would love to come to the memorial service, but unable to. Love and Friendship to you. Pat (Reedy) Warner & Jerry Warner

Pat Warner - October 21, 2013 at 03:20 PM

PW

“ Pat Warner lit a candle in memory of Nancy Elizabeth Jessee



Pat Warner - October 21, 2013 at 03:10 PM