



Kitty McConnell Henninger

September 18, 1932 - April 29, 2026

Kitty Marvin McConnell Henninger was born on September 18, 1932, in Abingdon, VA, the youngest of four children of Charles Lee and Catherine Sanders McConnell. She died April 29, 2026, in Newnan, GA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Clark Henninger and her son, David Lee Henninger (Dree) as well as by her parents and siblings.

Kitty graduated from Abingdon's William King High School in May of 1950 and attended Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA, leaving after her sophomore year to marry her high school sweetheart, Gerry Henninger, in 1952. When his military duties posted him to Alaska during the Korean Conflict, Kitty stayed with family in Abingdon with their newborn daughter, Ginny.

Kitty was an active Presbyterian her whole life, from Sinking Spring Presbyterian in Abingdon to Newnan Presbyterian in Newnan, serving in youth groups, Presbyterian Women, Sunday School teacher, as a Deacon and as an Elder. She was also a member of garden clubs in Roanoke and in Abingdon, of Black's Fort Chapter of the DAR, and was active in the historical societies of both Roanoke and Washington County. She enjoyed water skiing in her youth, history, and playing bridge, and she always had a book available to read. She served on the Veterans Memorial Park Board in memory of her brother Charles Lee McConnell, who was killed in action in World War II in Italy, as well as the Whites Mill Board, the Sinking Spring Cemetery

Committee, and the Abingdon Town Tourism Committee.

She is survived by children, Virginia Henninger Lyles (Dale), Charles Clark Henninger (Melissa), and Daniel Marvin Henninger (Linda); grandchildren, Hugh Rickenbaker (Erika), Grayson Lyles (Kristin), Holly Henninger Showalter (Josh), Katy Henninger Hott (Matt), Joseph Henninger, Ethan Henninger (Kacy), James Henninger (Addie), Madeleine Henninger, Matthew Henninger; great-grandchildren, Parker and Ashton Hott, Brynlee Henninger; nieces and nephews, Carol Lee Shankel, Anna Catherine Shankel, Sanders McConnell (Debbie), Rachel McConnell Palko (David) , Michael McConnell (Valerie); additional great-nieces and nephews; and cousins Phil Clark, Laura Clark Johnson (Norman), Helen McConnell, Betty Ringley.

The family would like to thank the staff of Corinth Road Personal Care Home who took such good care of Kitty in recent years: Ann Cowan, Elizabeth Cannon, Erine McAfee, Alecia Moody, Terra Presley; and the caring staff from Sacred Journey Hospice: Michelle Arnold, Jennifer Hester, and Darcie Jones, Chaplain.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She will be interred in Knollkreg Cemetery in Abingdon, VA, next to her husband of 65 years, Gerry Henninger.

Online condolences can be shared by visiting www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-253-4580

Tribute Wall

BE

“ Betty and I enjoyed Kitty and Gerry at sinking springs PC as well as other historic activities around Abingdon. Kitty sausage door t many a days with her mom researching cemeteries around the county for the book High on a Windy Jill

Bucky and Betty Edmondson - June 14 at 02:31 PM

BE

Kitty said she spent many a day...

Bucky and Betty Edmondson - June 14 at 02:33 PM

WS

“ Cousin Kitty was in a class of her own. She was warm, friendly, beautiful and intelligent. Kitty loved to be with family, and she truly loved going to family reunions; especially to Hungry Mother Park. For the past several years, up until she moved into her latter stage of life, she would tell me everytime I talked with her that it was time for me to put together a Sanders reunion at Hungry Mother. Alas, with so many families now living other than in Chilhowie, or Abingdon, and so busy with their own activities, there wasn't a good time to have it.

So, rest in peace, Sweet Cousin Kitty. We'll have that family reunion when we get to our final resting place.

Love, Cousin Warren

Warren Sanders - June 14 at 01:16 PM

JH

“ Mrs Kitty, you’re so incredibly missed! You were a gentle force of nature! I thoroughly enjoyed helping take care of you for just over two years. Thank you for the privilege of loving you!!! Rest easy now, my lady!!!

Jennifer Hester - June 12 at 07:45 PM

NS

“ Miss Kitty always had a big smile as she set at the kitchen table looking out the window every day. She waved to me every time I arrived and tell me to sit and chat with her for just a short minute. I always did. She was always a joy to visit with and loved her chocolates! I sure miss Miss Kitty.

Norma sanders - June 12 at 07:41 PM

JL

“ Kitty was just a lovely, lovely person. She and I talked often after my wife and I returned to Abingdon. My mother was the Director of Christian Education at Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church in the '40s and '50s and she spoke of Kitty being her very favorite young person she taught. Peace of Christ. John Legard

John Legard - June 11 at 08:39 PM

DM

“ Aunt Kitty was such a great conversationalist. Always interested in people, theirs lives, their activities, etc. She was always warm and pleasant. Even when her memory was slipping and she would say “Have I already told you?” She was so delightful I would say “Tell me again”. About 25 years ago she gave me some hostas from her garden in Abington, VA. I am still growing those hostas and have shared with others. Her generosity is still in motion.

Debbie McConnell - June 11 at 03:13 PM

MS

“ Ms Kitty was very special to me ! I really miss the days we spent playing Scrabble, sometimes twice because we had so much fun. We loved walking down the sidewalks all around. The many lunches we spent together downtown will stay with me forever. I loved her so much ❤️

Margie Stephens - June 06 at 01:37 AM

MS

“ Margie Stephens lit a candle in memory of Kitty McConnell Henninger



Margie Stephens - June 06 at 01:31 AM

JB

“ Jo Anne Bryant lit a candle in memory of Kitty McConnell Henninger



Jo Anne Bryant - June 05 at 06:04 PM