

## Robert Paine Shapard III

January 24, 1931 - March 14, 2019

Mr. Robert Paine Shapard, III, known as Bobby to his family and friends, died on Thursday, Mar. 14, at age 88. Bobby passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family in the home that he and Virginia, his wife of 61 years, built together. Bobby was a truly devoted and giving husband, father, and grandfather.

Bobby was born in 1931 in the old Strickland hospital in Griffin. He graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee in 1949. He earned a degree in textile engineering in 1953 from North Carolina State University, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. After college, Bobby served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force between 1954 and '56, helping to design textile materials such as flight suits for pilots in Dayton, OH, and Baltimore, MD. He was also stationed in Alaska for part of this time, where he helped design the first space suits for American astronauts.

The year that he left the Air Force, Bobby met Virginia "Ginger" Muller in Lynchburg, VA, on a blind date. They fell in love quickly and were married in 1957. They were devoted to one another for nearly sixty-two years.

Bobby joined his father, R.P. Shapard Jr., and brothers in the textile business in Griffin. He worked first as vice-president of Spalding Knitting Mills, and succeeded his father as president in 1994. He also was president of Pittsburgh Knitting Mills in South Pittsburgh, TN, for nearly forty years. He joined the Rotary Club of Griffin in 1956, and served as president for the 1972-73 term. Bobby had perfect Rotary attendance for more than sixty years.

He was a founding director of the Bank of Griffin in 1967, and a lifetime parishioner and former vestry member at St. George's Episcopal Church. Bobby and Ginger were also longtime supporters of Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, VA.

Bobby was skilled as a carpenter, and he was also an avid cattleman, raising prize-winning Polled Hereford cattle on his Jackson Road farm. He chased his cows, ran fences, cut hay, and plowed fields at every opportunity, usually out-working any younger people helping him.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; daughter Virginia and partner Stacey of Griffin; son Rob and wife Sarah of Chapel Hill, NC; daughter Christy and husband Jay Sherman of Fallbrook, CA; son Lloyd and wife Rosa of Griffin; grandchildren Kat and Christina Martin of Griffin, Ella and Samantha Shapard of Chapel Hill, Alexandra and Jacob Sherman of Fallbrook, and Holland Shapard of Griffin; sister Sally and husband Lewis Hill of Tampa, FL; brother John and wife Lillian Shapard of Griffin; sisters-in-law Mary Ann Shapard and Marty Shapard of Griffin; and a large family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws whom he deeply loved. Bobby was preceded in death by his brothers William H., Richard M., and Herbert F. Shapard.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, Mar. 17, at 3 pm at St. George's Episcopal Church, 132 North 10th St. in Griffin. After a graveside service, the family will welcome all friends and family at the Shapards' home on Jackson Road. Haisten McCullough Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to St. George's Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

Memorial Dr.  
Griffin, GA 30223

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 17. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. George's Episcopal Church  
132 N. 10th St.  
Griffin, GA 30223

## Visitation

MAR 17 (ET)

The Family Home  
260 Dutchman Road  
Griffin, GA 30223

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Paine Shapard III*

October 07, 2023 at 09:35 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May you continue to comfort one another and know that God about what you are going through. (Proverbs 17:17, 1 Peter 5:6,7)*

**Danielle** - March 18, 2019 at 01:24 PM



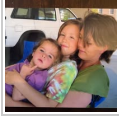
*Danielle, thanks very much.  
-Rob Shapard*

**Rob Shapard** - March 22, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ *My family built our home on the Jackson Road back when I was just a young girl. It was home and we loved it so there. Living there was just a way of life that blessed us each day. We moved to town in the mid 70's and have missed our home there to this day. I must say that my Daddy and Ronnie are no longer with us either. We shared a life out there that was different and so precious along with our neighbors who were beloved by our family. Thank you for the kind years we shared there. There will never be as sweet a time as that was. Bobby and Ginger always were part of our family and still are. My mother and I send prayers and love to you all in the loss of this precious man whose legacy will live on through you all. This was the house that built me.....and I am so glad you were there to help make me who I am today. God bless you all. JANICE COBB*

**Janice Cobb** - March 18, 2019 at 10:51 AM



*Thank you, Janice, for your very kind words and memories. Our best wishes to you and yours.*  
*-Rob Shapard*

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**Rob Shapard** - March 22, 2019 at 12:19 PM



“ *Judy Sutton lit a candle in memory of Robert Paine Shapard III*



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**Judy Sutton** - March 17, 2019 at 01:44 PM