



Lois Rounion

June 9, 1912 - March 15, 2013

Bluefield, WV- Lois Karnes Rounion , a grand Lady, was tried , tested and found not wanting! She was born to Robert A. Karnes and Mary Elizabeth Douthat Karnes June 9, 1912. Following the untimely death of her father, and at the age of two, she moved with her remaining family to Bluefield. Her mother's five brothers, all railroaders, gave assistance and support to the widowed family and helped them establish a residence at 113 Fourth Street. Lois and her older sister Mildred were straight A students at Ramsey Junior and Beaver High School. Among their teenage treasures were many music and writing awards. There were also boyfriends, one of whom was remembered strumming his mandolin and singing from the window of a boarding house across the street. Lois recollected he was handsome, had a beautiful voice, and knew all the songs of the day. This romance led to marriage and three children. Her husband William Wilbur Rounion was skilled in communications technology. Following the lean years of the 1930's and the beginning of World War II he volunteered for employment with the Navy Department. Bill was stationed in the Pacific Theatre and early in 1945 a telegram from the War Department informed Lois her husband had died and would be buried in Honolulu, Hawaii. Faced with the task of raising three children, Lois, with the financial help of her sister Mildred K. Fortune, attended Business College and worked at the same time for the rationing board. Most reading this will not remember price and other government controls over shoes, gasoline, tires, meat, sugar and other necessities of life, but during

WW II there was a total national commitment to share the burden and win the war-Big Government? Her next job was with the Appalachian Power Company as secretary to several district managers for more than 35 years. She was always involved in civic and church activities. Lois was locally recognized as Secretary of the Year. She was president of the International Secretaries Association and received state wide honors for her service. She held various offices in the Community Concert Association, Town and Gown, YWCA and state level AARP. Lois and her family grew up as members of Bland Street Church. She sang in the choir, played piano for Sunday School classes, took dictation, kept records for Church Board meetings and published the monthly news letter. Yes, Lois was a grand lady with more than a touch of class. She will be missed. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Joyce R Flanagan of Clarksburg, WV, and sister Mildred K. Fortune. Left to cherish her memory are her sons William A. Rounion and wife Marilyn of Yorktown, VA and Robert L. Rounion and wife Nancy of Bluefield, VA. Her grandchildren are David and Biff Rounion of Hampton, VA, Terri Rounion Davies of Kernersville, NC, Gene Riley of Charleston, WV, Ivey Ferguson of Huntington, WV and Bryan Ferguson of Clarksburg, WV. Great grandchildren are too numerous to list; however, they will all fondly remember Mama Lois. Funeral services will be held at Mercer Funeral Home Tuesday at 2:00 PM Her life will be celebrated with the help of Pastors Ken Price and Warren Faulknier . Viewing will be prior to the service at 1:00 PM. Interment will be at Maple Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers , remembrances should be sent to the Bland Street United Methodist Church Music Fund, 2620 Bland Road, Bluefield, WV 24701. Mrs. Rounion received wonderful care from Dr. Barker and the staff on 4-West, and the good folks at Glenwood Park Assisted Living. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mrs. Lois Karnes Rounion.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lois Rounion*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Mrs. Rounion was truly a lady! She was intelligent, gifted and had such "class" that is not seen anymore in society! I can see her now; well dressed, hair styled neatly and her warm smile! What a terrific person for our society - she has left such a positive "mark" in our area & a "void" that will be hard to fill! I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to know her!*

Lindsey Grubb Barilla - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *My condolences go out to you, Bob and Nancy, Brian and Ivey on the loss of your Mother and grandmother. She truly was a grand lady. My love and prayers are with you.*

Pat Miller - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Dear Mr. Runion, I was saddened to learn of your mother's death. My condolences to you and your family. She was a lovely lady and an inspiration to many folks. I was honored to know her over the years at Bland St. UMC. Sincerely, Lisa*

Lisa Dunn Godwin - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

TW

“ My sympathies with your families as you grieve the loss of one of the most wonderful ladies I've known. I join you in celebrating the extraordinary life that was Lois Runyon! Great memories of her service in many capacities to the community in Bluefield will stay with me forever. Godspeed Lois!

Timothy Waugh - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

IF

“ There is no question that Momma Lois was truly a grand lady that was close to God and had her own way that no one could change but her. Even though through these last years since my Mom's death, I have wanted to visit her but because of health issues I was not able to and it saddens me even more that I cannot be present now. To Uncle Bob, to Uncle Bill I know she was a great mother to you from what stories my Mom has told me. To the rest of cousins and my brothers we all know how she lived and celebrated life with God, music and family. Yes, there are so many memories of Thanksgiving dinners with us there including Mildred and Henry and those are memories I will never forget til my dying days. In closing, I would like to thank everyone involved in her life and in her care. God bless you all.

Ivey Ferguson - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

FS

“ What a wonderful lady! I will always remember singing with her in the choir at Bland Street and visiting with her and her sister, Mildred and Mildred's husband, Henry Fortune. Lois was the epitome of a gracious and classic lady whose demeanor and quiet way spoke highly of her way of life. I consider it an honor to have known her. My thouts and prayers are with her family. God bless!

Fred Simpkins - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

J(

“ Lois was one of my all-time favorite people and someone I have know my entire life. She was always a beautiful lady who never failed to lift my spirits and add a touch of class. She will be missed, but she also will be remembered and live on with so many friends and family remaining. My heartfelt thanks and sympathy to her family. love, Joanne

Joanne Boileau (Mahood) - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

ML

“ Mrs.Runion served as my father's secretary at the Appalacian Power Company for many years until his retirement in the early 1970's. My father always said she was such a wonderful and dedicated secretary and he appreciated her work so very much. My best regards to her remaining family.Her son Bob and I attended Concord College, now University, at the same time.

Marilyn Wood Lackey - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

PC

“ What can one say at a time such as this? I pray for comfort to come to the family and friends of Lois. I have fond memories of this grand lady while employed as a youth director and the beginning of my ministry work for Our Dear Lord. She was full of life, love, compassion and strength. A very talented lady and an encourager to all. She will be missed and we all celebrate her life with the sure and certain hope of seeing her again. Walk in Christ's Shadow...

Pastor Mary Cyrus - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JP

“ Bob and family, So sorry for your loss. My sincere sympathy to you and your family. Your mother was very special.

Jinkie Peacock - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM