



Mary Ethel Jessee Raub

September 3, 1936 - June 12, 2025

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and dear friend, Mary Ethel Jessee Raub, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Known by all as a faithful servant, a loyal community member, and a true inspiration to everyone who knew her, Mary was the absolute embodiment of love and grace.

Born in Elk Garden, Virginia on September 3, 1936, to the late Frank and Hattie Jessee, Mary was one of 12 Jessee children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Roy Raymond Raub; her brother, Vaden Jessee; her brother, Bill Jessee; and her sister, Jan Duty.

Family was everything to Mary and that was evident in all she did.

Affectionately called GoGo by her grandchildren, Mary was a true mentor and role model to so many as she lived her life full of love and acceptance. Mary is survived by her son and the light of her life, Tom Raub, and his wife Michelle of Roanoke, VA; her granddaughter, Kaitlyn Raub of Mt. Pleasant, SC; her granddaughter, Mackenzie Raub of Roanoke, VA; her great granddaughters Sophia and Peyton Bonner of Mt. Pleasant, SC; her sisters, Debbie Price, Bonnie Jones, Barbara Holliday, Kathleen Harris, Joanna Hale, and Vicki Owens; and her brothers James Jessee and Roy Jessee. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and close friends who love and honor her.

Mary approached life as an adventure and she perfectly exemplified the art of truly living life to the fullest. Her journey was full of experiences from growing up on a farm with eleven siblings and all that entailed; to her days as a nurse

with Bluefield Sanatorium; managing the office for Papa Doc and helping with patients; going on safari expeditions in various countries; hosting big game hunters and big game photographers in Zimbabwe; serving as President of the Garden Club in Bluefield, WV; and proudly serving as a Rotarian, Westminster Presbyterian Church Member, Women of the Church Member, and Bluefield Beautification Committee Member. Mary was committed to making a difference in all she did. She left everything a little better with her sweet touch and encouraging words. She loved her community and always fed back into the Bluefield area to help it continue to grow and thrive. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Mary was fiercely loyal and genuinely authentic to the things she loved and committed to. To know Mary was truly to love her. Her impact will long be felt in Bluefield and beyond.

Visitation will be at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 19th at Westminster Presbyterian Church followed by a Memorial Service at 1:00 p.m. A Graveside Service will follow immediately at Monte Vista Park Cemetery.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mary Ethel Jessee Raub.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV 24701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2005 Washington Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

JUN 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2005 Washington Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Well I sent my thoughts because hse and Roy done an excellent job on my right arm but I do not see it posted

John Lowe - June 30, 2025 at 04:16 PM

KA

“ Dr Raub did 3 surgeries on .me before I was 12. He was a wonderful dr. Mary was always smiling and helpful to their patients. Always a kind and encouraging word. Praying for your family and RIP Mary....

Kathy Arnold - June 26, 2025 at 09:22 PM

CH

“*Mary was a special woman!! She shared passion and intellect with spirituality and love! She was an amazing naturalist with a broad understanding and knowledge of plants and animals which is what drew me to her, but she gave me the experience of a lifetime! I was in South Africa for a conference and had the privilege of joining her and Tom in Zimbabwe for 9 days in 2001. She wanted me to see Roan antelope and we drove around for days in Hwange National Park and finally found a herd!! Along the way we saw hundreds of elephants, Kudu, Impala, Zebra, Giraffe, jackals, lions, buffalo, lilac breasted rollers, drongos, ostrich, waterbuck, sable antelope, sessabe, wildabeast, etc! The list is huge!! I never thought I would see any of those things along with White Rhinos and Hippopotamus! She was incredible in navigating the parks and getting around the country from one place to another!! We had a lot of fun together and it's an amazing experience I will never forget*

After Tom was killed I had some work around SW Virginia and dropped in to see her from time to time in Bluefield and we went to see local wildlife and wildflowers and spent a good bit of time bird watching!

It was an honor and a privilege to have known her and the memories of my time spent with her will last a lifetime

Chris hobson - June 20, 2025 at 12:54 AM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ethel Jessee Raub.*

June 19, 2025 at 11:43 AM

JR

“ *Joi R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ethel Jessee Raub.*

Joi R. - June 18, 2025 at 07:16 PM

PM

“ *Dr. Roy Raub performed a back surgery on my late grandfather at Bluefield Sanitarium Hospital in the late 1960's or early 1970's. When Paw Paw opened his eyes following the surgery, he thought that he had died and gone to heaven as there was a beautiful angel, dressed all in white, at his bedside. That beautiful angel was Mrs. Mary Raub. I remember Mrs. Raub from the office where she was the consummate professional. She was a true Southern lady.*

Phyllis R. Mikels - June 18, 2025 at 06:57 PM

KL

“ *Kathy L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ethel Jessee Raub.*

Kathy L. - June 18, 2025 at 04:50 PM

JB

“ *Mary was the sweetest and most caring woman that I know. She gained her heavenly wings but one thing for sure she will never be forgotten. Please know that many thoughts are with all of you and she's now at peace with Papa Doc.
Sincerely, June Beasley*

June Beasley - June 18, 2025 at 02:07 PM

LU

“ *Love from The Linkous Aunts and Uncles purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mary Ethel Jessee Raub.*



Love from The Linkous Aunts and Uncles - June 17, 2025 at 10:01 PM

TA

“ *Mrs. Raub was a great person and truly cared for people. My thoughts and prayers are with the Raub family. May God give you comfort and peace.*

Teresa Andrews - June 17, 2025 at 04:45 PM

AC



Anna. Conte - June 18, 2025 at 10:00 PM

AT

*To the Mrs. Mary Raub family-
Thanks for sharing your mother with us. Like in life you only knew someone for a short while. Mother was gentle as a summer breeze yet flew away suddenly like a firefly in the night. It was a good experience to have taken care of Mother Raub for such a short time.
With Family love to you all,
Abraham Traynham- mcna*

Abraham Traynham - June 24, 2025 at 11:29 PM