



## Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly

April 9, 1952 - September 2, 2021

Virginia Mary Reilly, 69, of Summerville, SC died September 2, 2021 in Seward, Alaska, while on a vacation with her husband, son, and daughter. Ginger was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on April 9, 1952, the daughter of Walter and Frances Reilly. She grew up in nearby Linden, NJ and graduated from Linden High School. Ginger graduated from Rutgers University in 1974 with a Bachelor's degree in Forestry. She went on to receive a Masters of Forestry degree from Yale University in 1976.

Ginger began her professional career in Texas with Kirby Forest Industries. She moved to Summerville in 1979, where she joined Westvaco, met and married her husband, and raised her family. Ginger retired from Westvaco after 27 years of service. Her career at Westvaco included a number of different roles, including maintenance manager, technical forester, and minerals manager. She was most proud of her service as district forester, guiding over a dozen people and 90,000 acres of land through the worst fire season the company ever experienced, as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

Upon retirement, Ginger turned her energy towards her many passions. She was an active Master Gardener, volunteering at Magnolia Plantation. Ginger also served as a SC Long-Term Care Ombudsman and served in several roles with local/community schools. She was very active in the Society of American Foresters at local, state, and regional levels, serving in a number of offices.

Those who knew Ginger knew her as a caring friend, a loving wife and beloved mother, a lover of plants and animals, and someone who would do anything to help a person in need. She is survived by John Thurmes, her husband of 36 years; son Zachary Thurmes, of Raleigh, NC; daughter Rachel Thurmes of Wasilla, AK, and sister Joan Klapka and her husband Robert.

Visitation will be held at James A Dyal Funeral home in Summerville on September 16 from 6 to 8 pm, and a Funeral Mass will be held at St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in Summerville at 1 pm on September 17. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation at <https://parkinsons.org>, or to a charity of your choice.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com).

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends & Family

SEP **16.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 873-4040  
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

## Service

SEP **17.** 1:00 PM (ET)

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church  
28 Sumter Avenue  
Summerville, SC 29483

# Tribute Wall



“ James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly



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**James A Dyal Funeral Home** - September 15, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly

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September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ I participated with Ginger on the Summerville Catholic School Board of Trustees and we of course saw Ginger, John and the children at church on Sundays. Nice to see them grow up to be fine adults. My only working experience with Ginger was on the school board. That showed me that she was a person who took her responsibilities seriously and gave her best effort every time.

*Like many others we were shocked and saddened by Ginger's sudden passing, yet it happened at a time when the family was together, a blessing in a time of great need.*

*Our heartfelt condolences to John, Zack and Rachel.*

*Bob and Sarah Peterson*

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**robert peterson** - September 22, 2021 at 07:17 AM

CP

“ John and family: Thank you for the great Tribute Video on Ginger and family and her many and varied travels over the years. Unfortunately my many and varied volunteer "jobs" and other involvements that I have chosen and evolved into during retirement the last 14 years from International Paper Forest Resources and relocating from Alabama back to Georgetown to be around several family and friends we had made during my career, did not allow me enough time to travel to Summerville for the viewing and/or the funeral Mass! As I indicated when I called you John, Ginger and you were always special to me as always professional, friendly and willing to take time to explore Society of American Forester and South Carolina Forestry Association opportunities in South Carolina. I always enjoyed each of your companionship and contributions and always making time to explore opportunities to improve our chosen profession of forestry! I will add a bucket to my list of things I still need to do to get over to Summerville and visit; and please feel free to call me if your travels take you toward the Georgetown area and/or I can help you in any way. While we have not seen each other in several years, I have always counted you and Ginger in the list of special people I have always been proud to have known! Godspeed, Colin Peterson (Sandy), 167 Johnstone Lane, Georgetown, S.C. 29440, (843) 344-9771.

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**Colin S. Peterson** - September 19, 2021 at 05:49 PM

AS

“ John, Zack, Rachel,

*I am deeply sadden by the news of Ginger's passing. Ginger was wonderful manager, mentor, and friend! Our Westvaco family has lost another great professional forester!*

*Alex Singleton*

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**Alex Singleton** - September 17, 2021 at 11:40 AM

GB

“ *Sadden by the news of Ginger's passing.  
Sending our prayers to the family.*

*Jerry and Edna Brockenfelt.*



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**Gerald Brockenfelt** - September 17, 2021 at 07:52 AM

WP

“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



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**William W. Petraitis** - September 16, 2021 at 03:53 PM

WP

“ Dear John and Rachel and Zach,

*I never met any of you, but I'm an old classmate of Ginger's. I first met her at Linden School #1 in Kindergarten, and we were in many classes together over the next 12 years. In fact, for a short while her dad would pick me up in the morning and give me a ride with her in his turquoise Mercury to grammar school. Ginger was an incredibly warm, caring person with a great sense of humor, and a laugh that was deserving of such a gift. I can still hear her laugh, even as I write this. Funny how some things you remember throughout life, no matter how deep they are in the past. I know the pain that you all must be feeling right now, and I wish I could tell you that it goes away, but it doesn't. Ginger will be at every future family event, because you will all carry her with you in your hearts. From the video tribute, it looks like my classmate had quite an interesting, full life, and a very loving family. One can't ask for much more than that in this life. Once again, please accept my condolences for your great loss. Rest in Peace, Ginger . . .*

*Bill Petraitis  
Avon, NJ*

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**William W. Petraitis** - September 16, 2021 at 03:39 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



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September 16, 2021 at 09:20 AM

EM

“ Elaine & Ray Murray purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



Elaine & Ray Murray - September 15, 2021 at 07:25 PM

JF

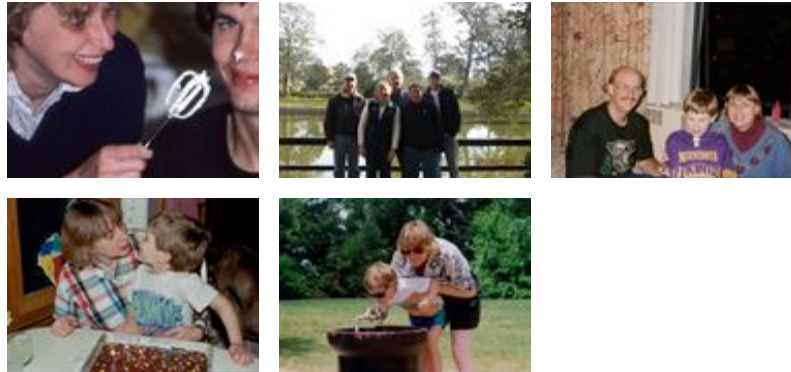
“ John and Theresa Thurmes and family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



John and Theresa Thurmes and family - September 15, 2021 at 10:31 AM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - September 15, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.*



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September 15, 2021 at 01:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.*



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September 14, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ *A wonderful forester, colleague, person and friend. Many great memories. Here is one from 1984 with Ginger as the Supervisor of Westvaco's state-of-the-art Equipment Maintenance Shop in Summerville, SC. Dave Gerhardt*



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**Dave Gerhardt** - September 14, 2021 at 05:13 PM

PY

“ *Patti Barton, Jack Young and Mike Young purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.*



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**Patti Barton, Jack Young and Mike Young** - September 14, 2021 at 02:48 PM

PB

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Ginger's passing. We appreciated the Christmas Card and sweet picture of her family each year. We hope you will find comfort in your friends and family that surround you at this time.*  
*Love and Prayers,*  
*Patti for Jack and Mike (Ginger's Cousins in Arizona)*

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**Patti Barton** - September 14, 2021 at 02:41 PM

JM

*My condolences to the family & close friends . I know Ginger from Thi Chi class two yrs . I will remember her smile the last time I seen her n class this past July . Rest n peace Ginger . Praying that God will comfort ur family & keep them strong .*  
*Johnnie Mae Mosley*

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**Johnnie mae Mosley** - September 14, 2021 at 04:35 PM

PF

“ *Pat, Denise, Sharon & Families purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.*



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**Pat, Denise, Sharon & Families** - September 13, 2021 at 03:24 PM

TC

“ *Dear John and Rachel and Zach*

*When we learned about Ginger's passing we were all so heartbroken. Some of our fondest memories of childhood were the trips we took together as families. Being able to grow up around and learn from a person as passionate and caring as Ginger was truly a blessing. She was an amazing person. We miss her so much and can't imagine what your family is going through. Heaven is a brighter place today because of her and we know she will continue to watch over you and your family. Because that's the type of person she has always been.*

*With so much love  
Mike and Gloria's kids. The cousins.*

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**Thurmes Cousins** - September 13, 2021 at 11:52 AM

SB

“ *Dear John, Zachary and Rachel. My heartfelt and sincere condolences on the loss of your wife and mom. Cousin Ginger was a special person who always took time to remember our family back here in New Jersey. I'll always remember the annual Christmas photos and hand written letter she would send each year, knowing she was so proud of all of you. I pray that memories of happier times will help bring you comfort during this very difficult time.  
Sincerely, Sharon Byrnes Budd*

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**Sharon Byrnes** - September 13, 2021 at 11:19 AM

MG

“ John, Zachary and Rachel you are in my thoughts and prayers. Ginger was a wonderful person who was warm and kind hearted. I will always remember our monthly girl's night-out fellowship. May God give you strength during this most difficult time.

*Margaret Goodwine*

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**Margaret Goodwine** - September 12, 2021 at 11:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



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September 12, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



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September 11, 2021 at 10:14 PM

DM

“ John, Zach, and Rachel,  
I am so sorry to hear of Ginger's passing. She was a very special lady. Praying for you all, that you will be comforted and may Ginger rest in the peace of Christ.

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**Debbie Masciale** - September 11, 2021 at 07:32 PM

KE

“ *John and family,  
So sorry for your lose. I remember Ginger from Westvaco and the  
times we worked together. She was a wonderful person. My prayers  
are with your family.*

*Kimo*

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**Kimo Esarey** - September 11, 2021 at 08:00 AM

DC

“ *Dear John and family,  
I am so sorry to hear of the sudden loss of Ginger. She was very  
sweet and I enjoyed knowing her from church and also when we  
both belonged to Curves. My prayers are with you all.*

*Denise Cyprian*

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**Denise Cyprian** - September 10, 2021 at 04:24 PM

EM

“ Dear John, Zach and Rachel,

*I just found out this morning about Ginger. It has been hard to process. I am so sorry for your loss; your family is so close so I know this must be difficult. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Ginger was a great friend, a most genuine and caring person and I will miss her. I would like to share a picture from the last time we were together.*

*Elaine Murray*



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**Elaine Murray** - September 10, 2021 at 12:11 PM

BC

“ To John and the family - Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Ginger was always so kind and sharing. She always set an example of a gifted professional to everyone around her. - Brian Clark

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**Brian Clark** - September 10, 2021 at 09:51 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.



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September 09, 2021 at 10:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Virginia "Ginger" Mary Reilly.*



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September 09, 2021 at 10:14 PM



“ *John, Zach and Rachel,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. Please know you are in my prayers.  
Cindy Ensminger*

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**Cindy Ensminger** - September 09, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *John and "kids":  
I have thought of you all constantly all week since receiving the news. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I wonder if I am the only one who still pictures Ginger in that Halloween bumble bee suit she was wearing the first time I met her when she visited Blacksburg. A beautiful memory. Alan Watson, Missoula, Montana*

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**Alan Watson** - September 09, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ *Dear John and Family,  
  
I'm so saddened for your sudden loss. It's a loss for all of us who knew her. I will truly miss catching up with my friend at ApSAF meetings. I'm so very sorry.*

*Jen Gagnon*

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**Jennifer Lynn Gagnon** - September 09, 2021 at 02:55 PM

AD

“ Dear John and family. I am so sorry for this sudden loss and praying for you as you walk this out in faith. I wish I could say more than I can, but my interactions with Ginger have been few and sporadic and not very recent. Even so, she was a stalwart volunteer in APSAF, who could be depended on for anything and firmly made us a better organization than we would otherwise be. Her legacy lives on.... in many of us foresters, but more importantly in your family.

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**Adam Downing** - September 09, 2021 at 10:31 AM