



## Emma Akens Williams

September 26, 2021

Emma Akens Williams, 77 was born on June 22, 1944 the only child of Paul and Martha Akens in Appalachia, VA. She was their everything since they had hoped for many children. She passed away on September 26, 2021 after a courageous battle of 19 years with breast cancer.

She is survived by the love of her life, her husband of 54 years, Benjamin Franklin Williams III and her two children, Jessica Barrett (Paul) of Montclair and Ben Williams, of Manassas, VA. Additionally, she is survived by her two grandchildren, Alexa Harvey (Chandler) of Appomattox, VA and Brandon Parker of Montclair, VA.

From the time she was a young girl, Emma loved children and books. As the daughter of a coal miner and homemaker, this kind, gentle beauty played school outside with her friends or dolls and knew she would become a teacher one day. Much to her parent's dismay, she would babysit for free just so she could be with children.

After graduating high school as valedictorian of her class, she continued her education at William and Mary College where she completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Always up for an adventure Emma moved up to Northern Virginia in 1966 with her best friend and roommate, Edna Powell (Flanary). Together, they started teaching at Fred M. Lynn School in Prince

William County which had grades 1st through 8th.

During this time, she met another teacher, Ben Williams who had grown up in the same area as Emma. She said, "We recognized each other's Southwestern Virginia accent and then realized we had known of one another." The rest is history because Emma and Ben married in 1967 and began having many adventures together to include: motocross racing at "The Pits" (now Tysons Corner Mall); bicycle racing (through A-1 Cycling); music concerts; historical visits and camping at various national parks from Canada down to Florida. Emma and Ben were avid supporters of their children's and grandchildren's numerous activities and could be found cheering at a track meet, tennis match, orchestra concert, wrestling match, soccer game, bicycle race, field hockey or lacrosse game. Family was everything to her.

Emma believed in being a lifelong learner and always strived to be the best educator and mom she could be so when she had children, she stayed home with them to jumpstart their education and furthered her own education. She completed her master's degree in elementary education as well as later earned a master's degree in library science. As an innovative thinker, Emma was one of the first teachers who introduced Kindergarten to the rapidly growing Prince William County at Saunders (the old Gar-Field High School on Route 1). Additionally, she worked at Marumscos (Kilby) Elementary, Neabsco Elementary, Woodbridge Middle, Rippon Middle, and concluded her 41 years in Prince William County Schools at River Oaks Elementary as the first librarian who had opened the building in 1990.

In her retirement she continued to be active in her educational society, Delta Kappa Gamma (for which she was a founding member), Reading is Fundamental (RIF), PWCS Retired Teachers Association, Librarians' Association ("The Bunheads"), Prince William Education Association's (PWEA) New Teacher support (assistance with voting registration and aspiring

teacher scholarships) and the Stafford Historical Society. The friends she made in these organizations were like sisters to her.

If you were fortunate enough to meet or know Emma, she offered kindness, love, positivity and always a smile. She lived her life as an example for others. Her impact on others, especially children will be felt forever, and she will be missed greatly. God has another angel now.

Children's books can be donated in her name to be gifted to the Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter and local public schools.

Thank you to all of our amazing friends and family who have supported us through this journey. We will be having her Celebration of Life service on Friday, October 8, 2021 at Montclair Country Club. Service will be at 6:00PM and a reception will be immediately following the service. Please RSVP to Caryll Lawrence at [carylllawrence@gmail.com](mailto:carylllawrence@gmail.com) if you wish to attend.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 8. 6:00 PM (ET)

Montclair Country Club  
16500 Edgewood Drive  
Montclair, VA 22025

# Tribute Wall



“ *Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Emma Akens Williams*



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**Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.** - October 08, 2021 at 08:31 AM



“ *Emma Akens Williams*

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January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



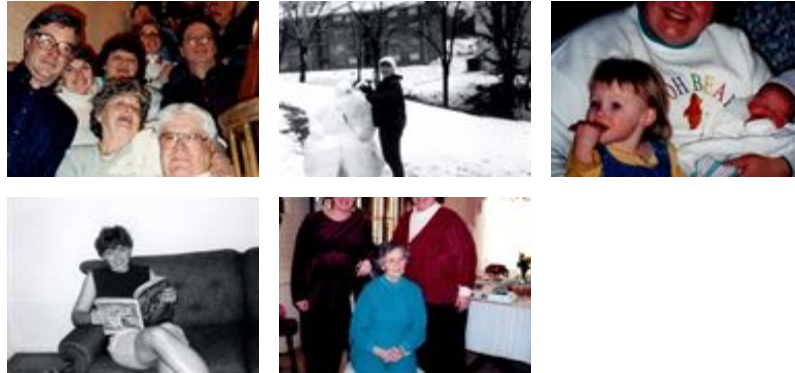
“ *Thank you so much for the wonderful photos, especially the car photo! Emma and Ben leaving on their honeymoon? What a blessing this couple has been in sharing their happiness with all, especially with the Stafford County Historical Society. I was and still am a member of Delta Kappa Gamma but did not know that Emma was a sister in DKG. She was always smiling, so friendly and soft-spoken [from library "training"????]. She will be greatly missed but her years of covering her cancer are indicative of her STRENGTH despite her gentle manner. She will NOT be forgotten. Condolences to Ben and Family.*

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**Becky Guy** - October 29, 2021 at 01:35 PM



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. - October 07, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Emma Akens Williams*.



October 06, 2021 at 06:49 PM



“ *I knew Emma as a librarian and fellow "bunhead." She was always kind and warm hearted with everyone. In fact, each time I think of her the very first thing I remember is her engaging smile. I send my condolences to you, her family, who miss her light as we all will.*

*Chris Flench*

Chris Flench - October 06, 2021 at 03:34 PM

PF

“ John and Pam Ferrell send our deepest sympathy to Ben and the family. We remember Emma as a sweet and caring women.

Pam Ferrell - October 06, 2021 at 10:41 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Emma Akens Williams.



October 05, 2021 at 07:02 PM

CH

“ Sending my deepest and heartfelt sympathy, condolences and prayers to the family of Mrs. Williams. I worked with her at River Oaks for several years and she was always a bright light and shared great stories. Her smile lit up the room. Mrs. Williams loved her family. Rest in peace.

Christal (Fleming) Harris

Christal Harris - October 05, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Emma Akens Williams.



October 05, 2021 at 11:29 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jessica Barrett** - October 04, 2021 at 11:40 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jessica Barrett** - October 04, 2021 at 11:39 AM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Miller Funeral Home** - October 04, 2021 at 11:07 AM