



## Madge J. Essary

October 30, 1931 - October 2, 2020

Madge J. Essary, age 88, of Bristol, Tenn., passed away peacefully on Friday, October 2, 2020 at Ballad Hospice House. She was born on October 30, 1931 in Greene County, Tenn., the daughter of the late Maulty and Ruth Woolsey Jones. In addition to her parents; she is also preceded in death by the love of her life and husband of 62 years, Ben H. Essary; and brothers, Jack Jones, John "Buck" Jones and Don Jones.

Madge was a native of Greene County, Tenn. She was a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Class of 1953. Madge was as a teacher for Haynesfield Elementary School where she worked for 30 years before retiring in 1987. She was an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Retired Teachers Association of Bristol, Tenn., and St. Luke United Methodist Church. Madge was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling with her husband Ben throughout the United States, Scotland and Ireland. She was a member of the Bristol Country Club and The Virginian.

She is survived by her two daughters, Taisa Essary Novak and husband Steve of Amelia Island, FL, and Tanya Elaine Essary of Amelia Island, FL; and several nieces and nephews.

A private committal and inurnment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to St. Luke United Methodist Church, 105 North Street, Bristol, VA 24201.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the staff at Ballad Hospice House for their care during her short stay and also Home Instead Caregivers for their wonderful care of Madge.

Arrangements especially for Mrs. Essary and her family have been made through Oakley-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Comments

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“ To the family, I am so sorry for your loss. I got to know Madge at Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club. I played golf with her for many years. What a great golfer and beautiful lady. She always smiled and had the best attitude about life. She will be dearly missed by so many people whose lives she touched. May she rest in peace. Blessings to you all and cherish all your great memories.

DeRaye Hansen



DeRaye Hansen - October 28 at 10:52 AM

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“ All my love & sympathy to Taisa & Tanya and your family. Madge was the best! She was so proud of her beautiful daughters and I'm sure you are honored to have her and Ben as parents! Cherish your memories & remember that so many others loved & are missing them also.

Judy Shumate

Judy Shumate - October 06 at 04:34 PM

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“ Taisa and Tanya,  
My prayers are with you and your family. Your mother was a wonderful teacher.

Kay

Kay Taylor Hume - October 05 at 06:50 PM

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“ Kay Taylor Hume lit a candle in memory of Madge J. Essary



**Kay Taylor Hume** - October 05 at 06:49 PM

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“ She was my 3rd grade teacher at Haynesfield and she was always one of my favorite teachers of all time. It's amazing she remembered me as soon as she saw me, which had been about 50 years. She lived in our neighborhood & we would see her socially from time to time in the last several years. She was a very nice lady and I always enjoyed talking to her.

**Lettie Thomas Jackson** - October 05 at 04:40 PM

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“ Paul R. Yeskey lit a candle in memory of Madge J. Essary



**Paul R. Yeskey** - October 05 at 12:56 PM

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“ Dear Taisa and Tanya,  
So sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. My sister Faye informed me recently. She was a great lady and one of my favorite cousins. I remember spending different times at your parents house over the years.  
My deepest condolences.  
Your Cousin, Charlie Yeskey.

**Charlie Yeskey** - October 05 at 10:27 AM

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“ Madge was my favorite teacher throughout all of my education. I'll share that thought with her many times. I will always have fond memories of her. The neighborhood will miss her also.

**Cathy Armstrong** - October 05 at 09:45 AM

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“ Taisa and Tanya,  
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Your mother was a beautiful lady, not only on the outside, but inside as well. My family thought so much of her and your dad. Prayers and deepest sympathy to you and your families.

**Annabeth Roland Spivey** - October 05 at 09:33 AM

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“ Madge and I taught together for many years. She was a wonderful person and a personal friend. We had many good times together and she will be truly missed.

**Jean Fuller** - October 04 at 10:11 PM

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“ We were saddened to learn of Madge's passing! She was a remarkable lady who we shared much laughter with. She and Ben were always such a pleasure to be around. We are confident they are dancing the streets of gold right now! Heaven gained an angel whom will be missed here on Earth. May you be comforted by God's grace.  
Love and heartfelt sympathy,  
Aileen, Michael and Barbara

**Aileen Michael & Barbara** - October 04 at 09:24 PM

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“ 02 October, 2020

Dearest Taisa and Tanya,

Moments ago I received word that your mother passed early this morning. My sincerest condolences to you and family, as I lift prayers that Our Heavenly Father may assuage the grief that you bear and walk with you, through this valley of great loss.

It has been 40 years since I last saw you and 2 years since I had lunch with your mother shortly after your fathers passing. I regaled to your mother, during our few short visits, the impact she and your father had on me as a young man at the beginning of my adult life.

Your mother was correct that, “it takes a village to raise a child” and as young man with a sheltered upbringing my observations of your parents became the foundation and building block of my character and interaction with society. I do not believe we realize how our own lives are observed and recorded or how our actions are taken. We can only hope our actions inspire for the betterment of others and not a detriment.

I observed them from a multitude of venues, their home life, working life as well their social and spiritual lives. Their love for one another and their love for family truly set them apart from other parents. They were good stewards of this life and strove to be successful and to accomplish all with pride. My observation of your parents enhanced, most assuredly, my endeavor for a goal that I considered unattainable with the career I have just retired, after 35 years.

They were competitive in the sports arena, yet displayed humble pride in winning a match as well as utter graciousness when not winning. Of course, your father did most of the winning on court and was gracious enough not to rub it in, too much with his laughter.

I have immortalized your parents throughout my life and have pondered my impact with those I've encountered. I pray that I have affected someone in such a manner that would have made them proud.

Thank you for sharing them, Taisa and Tanya, for one brief moment, 40 years ago.

I can not imagine my life's outcome without them. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Eric Spicer



“ I was visiting my mom and dad in Florida one year when Madge and Ben were in Sarasota. We went out to eat and had the best time talking about everything from teaching to crafts. I loved our conversations about teaching since I'm a teacher also. I guess once a teacher, always a teacher. It seems I've always known Madge since my mom and dad were friends with them while I was growing up. She will be missed. I truly loved getting her Christmas cards and talking with her about what was new in her life.

**Kandi Fox** - October 04 at 09:51 AM

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“ I have many fond memories of Madge, her love of life, laughter, golf, and her pride in her daughters and her husband. My condolences to Taisa and Tanya and her entire family. She was truly a good one!  
Sincerely,  
Betty Spencer

**Betty Spencer** - October 03 at 07:40 PM

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“ Thinking of you. I loved Madge and Ben and I'm so glad to have known your dear family.  
-Marian Hensley.

**Marian Hensley** - October 03 at 04:00 PM

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“ Taisa & Tanya,  
I am so saddened to hear about Madge's passing. She and Ben were both wonderful people that I truly loved and enjoyed getting to know. I will be praying for you both!  
-Pastor Caroline Hawthorne

**Caroline Hawthorne** - October 03 at 03:35 PM