



Diane Ryan Shelton

June 23, 1954 - August 1, 2023

Diane Ryan Shelton of Danville, Virginia passed away on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at Carilion Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. Born June 23, 1954, she was the oldest daughter of the late John C. Ryan, Jr. and the late Ella Frances Hardie Ryan of Danville. In 2004, she married Albert Kent Shelton, Jr., who survives.

Their marriage and blended families would bring them many happy years together.

Diane was educated in the Danville Public Schools and received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Averett College. She taught kindergarten for 30 years in the same classroom at G.L.H. Johnson Elementary School. She always said listening to a child reading for the first time was her most rewarding experience as a teacher.

Diane grew up and was baptized in the former Keen Street Baptist Church and was an active member in the choir and in its children's ministries. She later became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Danville, where she enjoyed volunteering in the nursery. She loved playing handbells, singing in the Sanctuary Choir and sharing Wednesday night suppers with family and friends. Her faith was strong and never wavered throughout the many challenges she faced.

Diane was a member of The Wednesday Club and served as the Chair of the Yearbook Distribution Committee. She was a former member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as well as the Ladies Golf League of Tuscarora Country Club. She co-chaired the Nine Hole League until her health prevented her from playing.

Diane loved people. She loved music. She loved to dance. Her favorite song was Mustang Sally and was the first onto the dance floor whenever she heard it played. Moreover, Diane loved to visit with people. As a child, her mother repeatedly warned her to never talk to strangers, but Diane never met one. She always managed to find a connection with everyone, from wait staff to a flight companion. She had the gift of lighting up a room with her smile and her conversation.

Family meant everything to Diane which included relatives and precious friends. She is survived by her twin sons, Andrew Lee Gardner (Danielle) of Graham, NC and Phillip Ryan Gardner of Danville. She is also survived by her sister, best friend and partner-in-crime, Kimberly Ryan Clifton (Robert) of Danville. Often called Lucy and Ethel, together they shared a room from childhood and adventures for a lifetime.

Additionally, Diane leaves behind her stepchildren, Dr. Ashley Shelton Morgan (Seth) of Bethesda, MD and George Franklin Shelton (Amanda) of Greensboro, NC as well as a sister-in-law, Sarah Shelton Hostetter of Forest, VA.

Together with Kent, the following grandchildren are left to share her memory: Shaffer Kent Shelton, Addison Elizabeth Shelton, Mason Andrew Shelton of Greensboro; Neva Lorraine Morgan, Amelia Katherine Morgan of Bethesda; Jason Michael Reissman and Elizabeth Michelle Reissman of Graham.

She is also survived by her aunt “Boots” Ryan of Danville and many cousins and their families throughout the country: Rev. Dr. H. Bryant Wilbourne (Jackie) of Greensboro, NC; Karen Hall (Chris Walker) of Orlando, FL, Barbara Hall of NYC and Ojai, CA; Dale Sparks and Donna Henderson (L.W.) of Halifax; Waine Ryan (Toni) and Gary Ryan (Nancy) of Danville. She was predeceased by many aunts and uncles as well as her brother-in-law, Ernie Hostetter and her cousins, Denise Monette and Scott Adams.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the charity of your choice or to First Presbyterian Church of Danville (937 Main St, Danville, VA 24541).

Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 4, 2023 at 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church of Danville with the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart and the Rev. Dr. H. Bryant Wilbourne officiating. Interment to follow at Highland Burial Park. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church and at other times at the home, 201 Cathy Drive.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main is respectfully serving the Shelton family.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
937 Main Street
Danville, VA

Funeral Service

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
937 Main Street
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Diane Ryan Shelton*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - August 01, 2023 at 02:35 PM

DB

She will be in our hearts forever. Reunited with her amazing parents in heaven.

Sending our love and prayers.

The Backus Family

D Beverly Backus - August 01, 2023 at 04:31 PM

JD

My daughter was glad to have you as a kindergarten teacher you will missed be not forgotten always remember as a teacher ❤️ the Davis family sending our out to the family

Juanita Davis - August 01, 2023 at 05:45 PM

GW

Such a beautiful tribute to a sweet soul. Honored to know her.

Gerri Reynolds Wade - August 02, 2023 at 02:31 PM

N'

Always smiling, funny and fun loving! Sweet girl!

Nina Bailey, Class of '72 - August 02, 2023 at 08:40 PM

JA

Awesome friend, teacher, mother, and person. You will be missed.

Janicecarter - August 03, 2023 at 09:39 AM

SC

Beautiful tribute to an amazing lady, who enriched the lives of so many. You were blessed if you knew her. She touched the lives of hundreds of children who to this day, as adults, love her. May we all have a life as rich as Diane's.

Sherri M Crumpton - August 03, 2023 at 03:38 PM

WT

“ *Condolences to the family. I have known Diane since elementary school. We just reconnected in 2018 via FB. Fond memories of her through the years. Prayers for all the family.*

Woody Thigpen - September 18, 2023 at 05:08 PM

MS

“ *To Kent, Andrew, Phillip, Kim and the entire Family: I am saddened to hear of Diane's passing. I had the privilege to work with her in the Danville School System and watch her work magic in teaching very young children two of those young ones were my sons. My wife knew her when they were candy stripers as well as educators and friends. She knew my sister in Girl Scouts, as educators and friends. Diane loved to laugh and she did have a very welcoming smile. Please accept my sincere condolences and May God be with you during this time.*

Michael Stowe - August 04, 2023 at 08:38 PM

JA

“ Joe and I are so sad about Diane's passing. My first memories of Diane was at Tuscarora and the nine holers. I would laugh at Kim and Diane so much that they were way more fun than the actual game of golf. We will pray for the whole family. She will be missed by so many.
Joe and Angie Alexander

Joe and Angie Alexander - August 04, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.



August 03, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Diane Ryan Shelton.

August 03, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.



August 03, 2023 at 08:29 PM

EC

“ Kim, I am so sorry to hear about your precious sister. What memories you created. You and your family are in my prayers. With my love, Elizabeth Creasy (Pitts. Co. DSS)

Elizabeth Creasy - August 03, 2023 at 09:29 AM

SR

“ Diane could always make me smile even during the toughest times. I am thankful I knew her and the family. Susan Robertson

Susan B Robertson - August 02, 2023 at 05:50 PM

TP

“ Kim and family - - prayers to you all - - Diane was a wonderful person and I know you will miss her dearly - - Hold on to your precious memories they will help you in your time of sadness
Terry Payne

Terry A Payne - August 02, 2023 at 10:55 AM

JE

“ Jeff & Tina Early planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ryan Shelton.

Jeff & Tina Early - August 02, 2023 at 09:17 AM

JE

“ Jeff & Tina Early purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.



Jeff & Tina Early - August 02, 2023 at 09:17 AM

RL

“ I had the pleasure of not only attending church with Ella Francis Ryan but also had the pleasure of having Mrs. Shelton as my kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Shelton pulled every single one of my baby teeth out. Even years after having Mrs. Shelton as a teacher, I would walk down to her classroom to have her pull out a tooth. When I graduated high school, I was a graduate of distinction. We were allowed to invite our three most influential teachers to the ceremony, and Mrs. Shelton was one of mine. It has been 23 years since I had Mrs. Shelton as a teacher, but she will remain in my heart forever. She will be missed greatly.

Rachel Love - August 02, 2023 at 08:25 AM

SD

“ I am so sad to hear about the passing of your mom she was a sweet and wonderful lady who will truly be missed . As my kindergarten teacher she always held a place in my heart. Til this day I still remember the school field trips in her class.

SHEENA Davis - August 01, 2023 at 05:42 PM

HS

“ I am so sad to hear about the passing of this wonderful lady. She was my absolute favorite teacher and one of my inspirations in becoming a teacher myself. I still remember details about being in her kindergarten class in 1986-87. She was always so sweet and caring. She truly wanted her students to be successful. She always welcomed students into her classroom, even after they had moved past kindergarten. Anytime that I saw her, I was greeted with a smile and a big hug. She will be greatly missed. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family. Heather Elliott Shrader

Heather Elliott Shrader - August 01, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.*



August 01, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Diane Ryan Shelton.

August 01, 2023 at 01:56 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.*



August 01, 2023 at 01:54 PM



“ *Edith J Adkins lit a candle in memory of Diane Ryan Shelton*



Edith J Adkins - August 01, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ 196 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - August 01, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *The Walker Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Diane Ryan Shelton.*



The Walker Family - August 01, 2023 at 12:24 PM