



## **Eleanor L. Barnes**

### **REVISED SERVICE INFORMATION**

Charlottesville lost a bright light last Sunday, September 18, 2016. Eleanor L. (Muffin) Barnes succumbed to glioblastoma after a steep decline that was blessedly short. Muffin was diagnosed less than a year ago, after which she had her own year of magical living, supported by her legions of friends and caregivers. She treasured her friendships and she knew no strangers. Muffin - always known for living life to the fullest - had an overflowing bucket list. She did everything in her power to empty her bucket in her time remaining. This included travels to Cuba and Key West, fishing in Montana, a reunion with high school friends and several trips to the beach.

Muffin loved to travel and visited over 25 countries during her lifetime and every continent except Antarctica. She would leave at the drop of a hat to go somewhere new. Muffin was a voracious reader and belonged to three book clubs. She loved art, museums, the theater and movies of all eras. Muffin was infinitely curious, and always in search of the next adventure.

Muffin attended Belfield School, Gunston Hall School, Mt. Vernon Jr. College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked for the Commissioner of Accounts for Albemarle County for 38 years.

Muffin fell in love with horses early on. In addition to being a wonderful rider, she had the innate talent of being able to teach others how to be better riders. She taught generations of children and their children, all of whom grew up learning how to ride, show and fox hunt. She showed them that it is possible to be both demanding and unconditionally loving at the same time. Muffin started her career with Grover Vandevender and continued from there to Darby's Folly with mentor Gloria Fennell. Both then moved to Millington Stables. She was a lifelong member of Farmington Hunt Club.

Muffin was so appreciative of the positive attitude and care she received from everyone she met at the UVA Emily Couric Cancer Center. Thank you to her doctors, Kate Schwarz and David Schiff and everyone that works with them. In addition a special thank you to longtime friend, Dr. Robert Powers, who helped her navigate the medical maze over the past year. The family is also thankful for the care and attention given by Jessica Walker and Shelley Stewart.

Muffin was preceded in death by her father, Bennett H. Barnes Jr.; and two brothers, Bennett H. Barnes, III and Alexander G. Barnes. She is survived by her mother, Gene B. Barnes of Charlottesville, Virginia.

As per Muffin's request a private family service is planned. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2016, at 5 p.m. at Millington Stable/The Farm, 2040 Millington Stable Lane, Free Union, Va.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, 1207 Harris St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, Camp Holiday Trails, 400 Holiday Trails Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or the Arthritis Foundation of Virginia, 3805 Cutshaw Ave., Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23230.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.hillandwood.com](http://www.hillandwood.com).

