

95th Birthday



Katherine Muscatello Seay celebrated her 95th birthday at a family Dessert Party hosted at her home in Ridgeway on Sunday, the 26th of January. Katherine, also known as “Kat,” “Mom,” “Mama,” “Ma,” “Granny,” “Nanny,” “Aunt Katherine,” and “dear friend,” was born in Superior, West Virginia on January 28th 1925 to Maude King Muscatello and Michael Dominic Muscatello. The family later moved to Henry County, where Katherine attended local schools and developed lifelong friendships. She was married to Henry Divers Williams of Stuart, who passed away as a young man in 1959. She was later married to Clifton Barrow of Draper, North Carolina, and then to Toney Leonard Seay of Henry County, with whom she raised her large family. Her children are Kay Barbour and husband, Don of Fieldale; Henry Williams and wife, Regina of Ridgeway; Carol Jewell and husband Charles of San Antonio, Texas; Michael “Mike” Williams of Ridgeway; the late Robert Williams and late wife, Audrey; the late Richard “Rick” Williams and wife, Judy of Ridgeway; the late Jeffrey “Jeff” Williams; Terry Laliberte of Durham, North Carolina; Clifton “Cliff” Barrow and wife Charlene “Char” of Ridgeway; and Tammy Clark and husband, Michael “Mike” of Axton. She is also stepmother to Patsy Seay Jordan and husband, James “Jimmy” of Richmond; Donna Seay Vance and husband, John of Crewe; and the late Tony Elwood Seay. She is a much-loved grandmother to 23 grandchildren and great grandmother to their children, who number 33 and counting. She is also a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews and their children in the Muscatello, Williams, Barrow, and Seay branches of her abundant family tree.

Katherine is the sister of James “Jim” Muscatello, Phillip “Pete” Muscatello, and Rosemary Muscatello Giamportone, all deceased and dearly missed. She enjoyed lifelong friendships with sisters-in-law, notably Jean Muscatello Beam of Martinsville; Geraldine Williams Norden of Fayetteville, North Carolina; Eunice Seay Gauldin; Frances Seay Hundley; Helen Seay Nelson; and Gertrude Seay Compton, who are deceased and remembered with love. She continues to treasure friendships with sisters-in-law Jacqueline Williams Patton of Orange Park, Florida; Marie Seay McCrickard of Martinsville; and Doris Seay Eldridge of Mechanicsville.

Katherine has lived in Henry County throughout her adult life. Her home of more than 50 years on the Speedway Road is the hub of her extended family. An organized and accomplished cook, with the help of her family, she continues to host holiday and special occasion gatherings there. She is a nearly-lifelong member of Fontaine Baptist Church, where she regularly attends Sunday Worship Services and enjoys the friendship and affection of the congregation there, many of whom she has known most of her life. She has served the church over the years as a devoted member of the Communion Committee, contributor of delicious food to church family meals, long-term member of The Willing Workers Sunday School Class, Bible School teacher and hostess, and supporter and friend to the pastors who have served the church and their families.

Katherine maintains her clever sense-of-humor, wit, and matriarchal role in her family, even as she continues to enjoy hobbies of reading, watching favorite Westerns on television, and supervising gardening activities for the beautiful landscaping she has developed over the years. She makes family favorite desserts, including assorted handmade candies, Pineapple Coconut Tarts, and locally-famous fruit cobblers. She recently taught grandchildren and their children to make her delicious Apple Butter and Christmas Candy. She is an avid lover of all growing things, with a “green thumb” and a talent for coaxing plants to flourish. She is especially partial to her beloved roses, dahlias, and heirloom hydrangeas. Katherine offers her family and visitors alike her knowledge of and skill at gardening, cooking, and rearing children! She is an ever-present example of a life well-lived.