

A Service of Remembrance
for the Life of



Ernest Eugene “Gene” Mason
June 16, 1926 – November 18, 2023

Joy Beam Mason
October 14, 1928 – November 30, 2020

November 21, 2023 1:00 p.m.

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Assisting with Worship

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

Rev. Dave Rochford

Organist

Sarah Ford Bland

Sound and Livestream

Jimmy McCarter, Josh Clayton

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Ernest Eugene “Gene” Mason
Joy Beam Mason

Gene Mason was born June 16, 1926, in Norfolk, Virginia. The second son of Floyd H. and Bessie Funk Mason, Gene joined the US Navy at the outbreak of the Second World War and became a Pharmacist Mate, assigned to the 1st Battalion Tank division of the Marines. After the War, Gene completed a BA in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary, and began a long and accomplished scientific career, first at the Naval Weapons Station and later at NASA-Langley Research Center, working in the Orbiting Primates program, SKYLAB and the efficient use of energy by the U.S. space program. Gene retired in 1983 and would ultimately enjoy remarking that “I have been retired longer than I was employed.”

Joy Beam was born October 14, 1928, in Atlanta, Georgia. The only child of Herman Monroe and Charlotte E. Beam, Joy’s life of service began in 1949 when she graduated from Norfolk General School of Nursing, married Gene Mason, and began work as charge nurse at Eastern State Hospital. In 1955, she embarked upon the ceaseless employment of stay-at-home motherhood, and then in 1967 became the first full-time school nurse at Norge Elementary School. She retired from that position in 1974.

Gene and Joy Mason made a life together in Williamsburg marked by devotion to God, loving and providing for family, and service to their country and community. Gene is dearly remembered for his work with the Cub Scouts, the Williamsburg Fire Department and Williamsburg Rescue Squad. Joy shared her time generously with Scouting, PEO, and the Red Cross. In the busy life of Williamsburg United Methodist Church, there were very few ministries that were not shaped by the Masons’ selfless example of servant leadership.

Gene and Joy are dearly remembered as the loving parents of four sons, Michael F. (Brenda), Chris C. (Donna), Patrick W. (Cary), Timothy G. (Tunyathon), and a Daughter-in-love, Melanie Brimhall (Craig). They delighted in ten grandchildren (Kathryn, Courtney, Jennifer, Andrea, Steven, Taylor, Heather, Rachel, Austin, and Hannah), and ten great grandchildren (Cole, Kennedy, Noah, Benjamin, Harper, Maelyn, Van, Kaleigh, Charlotte and Stella).

On November 18, 2023, after 71 years, 20 months of blessed marriage and a few years spent apart, Gene and Joy were reunited in the loving Spirit of the God who brought them together, and in Whom they trusted and delighted these many years.



*Satisfy us in the morning
with your unfailing love*

~ Psalm 90:14a

*POSTLUDE *God of Grace and God of Glory*
(Wilbur Held)