



## Mary Violet Lennon

March 15, 1929 - May 5, 2015

### MARY VIOLET LENNON

Mary Violet Lennon, born March 15, 1929 in Benoni, South Africa, and passed away peacefully on May 5, 2015. Vi, as she was known to those close to her, lived most of her life in South Africa and Northern Rhodesia/Zambia, and more recently in Dayton, Tennessee.

She was a hairdresser and later an accomplished corporate office manager. She worked tirelessly and lovingly for her family, and Africa was never far from her heart. Her wit and charm and presence is missed and irreplaceable.

She was preceded in death by her husband's Prentice Palmer and John Lennon; her sons Allan, Trevor, and Derek; her parents Harold and Mary Campbell; and her brother George Campbell.

She is survived by her son Michael Palmer and his wife Betty; her grandchildren and their families: Matt and Amy Palmer, and Kate, Aubrey, and Mia; Jonathan and Rachael Bailes, and Elizabeth and Charlie; Rob and Beth Palmer, and Lily and Luke; her sister-in-law Jean Campbell; her nephew Angus and his wife Sherry; her niece Sharon and her daughter Lauren; her niece Sandi and her husband Frank Haigh, and their children Kristen and Scott; and her daughter-in-law Cynthia Palmer.

The memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 7pm at Vanderwall Funeral Home. She will be laid to rest next to her sons in Rhea Memory Gardens. The memorial will be officiated by Dr. Doug Russell and

Rev. Jonathan Barber.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Women's Care Center in Dayton, Tennessee.

The family wishes to extend deep gratitude to Dr. Daniel Black and his staff for the high caliber and compassionate medical treatment over the years, and to David Zopfi and the Courtyard staff for the quality and kind caregiving in her last weeks; and to the Rhea Richland Senior Center and the many meaningful friendships.

Please share your memories of Vi on her online guest register at [Vanderwallfh.com](http://Vanderwallfh.com).

The family was cared for by Vanderwall Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## **Rhea Memory Gardens**

Hwy 27  
Dayton, TN

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ Violet Lennon was my mother-in-law and I loved her so very much. She was like a mother to me in so many ways. We seemed to have a special spiritual connection, especially after the death of Trevor who was my husband and the light of my life. Mum was wonderful to talk with and share memories with her about Trevor. She helped me keep him alive in my heart. Mum was a lot of fun. I loved going with her to the thrift store. She often times picked out stuff, then changed her mind about buying anything. But she loved to look! A true shopper at heart. I have fond memories of her playing Dominoes, drinking hot tea (sometimes just hot water), and nibbling on biscuits. She made us home made lemon curd that was heavenly. I regret that I could not spend more time with her in person, but we kept in touch by phone. She always asked about all my children and grandchildren. I will always be grateful that I got to spend some private time with her before she died. I don't know if she knew I was there, but it felt good to be with her, to love on her, and tell her that I love her. I know she is now at peace. I can see Trevor with his arms open wide, welcoming Mum to Heaven, laughing with her and hugging her tight. Trevor's dog Lady has also gone to Heaven to join in, not long before Mum died. I feel like they are both looking down on us and letting us know that all is well. As Trevor always said, it's the circle of life. It's just the way it is and the way it's suppose to be.

More prayers to my sweet brother-in-law Michael who has always made me feel part of the family. I love you Michael. Blessings and peace to Betty, all the kids and grandchildren. I hope to keep in touch.

Cynthia Palmer



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Cynthia Palmer - May 21, 2015 at 05:17 PM

JC

“ *The dearest sister-in-law anyone could ever wish for!*

*My memories of Vi are of fun and kindness. She was the one who introduced us to Betty Boop, the one who brought back, from her trip to America with John, a big stash of sweets we had only read about in books - Hershey bars, Twinkies, tootsie rolls and red liquorice - I don't think the children were impressed by it being red, though they were certainly impressed with the stash!*

*We will miss her wonderful dry sense of humour and share your loss for a brave and loving lady. My deepest sympathy to Michael, Betty and all the family, you are in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time.*

*Jean*

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**Jean Campbell** - May 17, 2015 at 05:12 PM

SH

“ We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Aunty Vi. She lived with us twice - once in Johannesburg when she moved from the Berea and prior to her moving into the retirement center (we remember she gave us strict instructions not to call it an "old age home"!) and again in Cape Town before moving to the States.

Although she was far away she was never far from our thoughts. We will treasure the time we had with her. Growing up I was always her "Blondie Bombshell" and we will always affectionately remember her as our "Apple Pie" a name Kristin used to call her from when she was about 2 years old.

We always used to play the "last touch" game when we were leaving and now there is no more last touch. But she will always hold a very special place in our hearts. Aunty Vi and Dad were chocoholics of note, with Cadbury's being their favourite. It is through them that my family love chocolate so much too and we will always think of her when having a slab of Cadbury's. She also used to love honey in boiled water as her tea, a strange combination, but probably because she was such a honey.

"At any rate" dear Apple Pie we will all miss you terribly. Rest in peace.

Love your niece Sandi, nephew Frank, great niece Kristin and great nephew Scott xoxoxoxo



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Sandi Haigh - May 17, 2015 at 01:09 PM

SC

“ One of my earliest memories of Aunty Vi was at the age of about 8 sitting on the veranda at our house in Widenham - Aunty Vi nicked the chocolate icing off my chocolate cake because she showed me it could be 'rolled up' and would you know it, it could also disappear! She was a lovely lady with a very naughty streak. (My chocolate cake was always well guarded thereafter).

*With John Lennon, I remember always knowing that she was very happy. There was so much love and laughter shared.*

*I remember well her stories of everyday people around her - wonderfully told in her style with a twinkle in her eye and a lots of playful jest.*

*She will always be remembered with great fondness and love.*

*Sharon Campbell (niece)*

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Sharon Campbell - May 17, 2015 at 12:52 PM

SC

“ 5 files added to the album *Times in South Africa*



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Sharon Campbell - May 17, 2015 at 12:35 PM

AC

“ Dear Michael, Betty and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Aunty Vi held a special place in our hearts. As children, we remember her (and Uncle John's) visits and the reel-movies they would bring for us to watch. Your mum entertained us when managing (as caretaker) Berea Centre and used to have cute amusing pet names for the three of us Campbell kids. She loved South Africa and we know she missed the country in so many ways. But she was so much safer with you in the USA. There is a old photograph that we remember so vividly...of Aunty Vi as a young lady, swirling around in a beautiful dress and wearing her dancing (tap?) shoes. Probably the lasting impression in my mind of dear Aunty Vi. Please accept our heartfelt condolences at the passing of your mum, Michael...dear Aunty Vi. Love from all the Campbells.

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**Angus Campbell** - May 16, 2015 at 01:54 PM

LJ

“ I will miss visiting with Vi. I appreciate her wit, intelligence, and friendship. She is loved, and will be fondly remembered.

*Lura*

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**Lura Joseph** - May 16, 2015 at 10:48 AM

JC

“ Vi and I were friends--we had a "connection", and I admired her wit and courage. I will miss her very much.

*Jo Anne*

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**Jo Anne Cowden** - May 15, 2015 at 07:53 AM