



## William Allen Patton

March 23, 1926 - June 10, 2020

PATTON, William A. (“Bill”), of Petersburg, VA, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Virginia “Ginny” Koeppen, whom he met and married after a whirlwind two weeks courtship; two sisters, Jessie Webster and Maude Hall; and brothers, Dale and Howard. He is survived by his four sons; Larry Duane Patton and wife Denise Fournier, Charles Allen Patton and wife Barbara Jean (“BJ”) Bogese, James Dale Patton and wife Leslie Kilbourne, and William Allen Patton, Jr; seven grandchildren; Lindsey, Becky, Bill, Drew, Ben, Trent, and Ryan Patton; two great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. The youngest of five children, Bill was born March 23, 1926 in rural Ashe County, North Carolina to Walter McClung and Minnie Caudill Patton. His grandparents, both ministers, were Methodist Circuit Riders who conveyed their message throughout the region traveling by horseback. With his humble upbringing, Bill enjoyed sharing the story of the wife of J.P. Morgan, who communicated with his mother through church liaisons, visiting their home for a week. He described Mrs. Morgan as quite gracious, but “moderately inconvenienced” by the lack of electricity and the distance from the back door to the outhouse. After graduating from Lansing, NC high school at the age of 17, he volunteered for service in the US Navy during World War II, and served as an aviation medicine corpsman until the war ended in 1945. Following discharge he enrolled at National Business College in Roanoke, VA where he obtained a degree in Business Administration. After graduation he began a career with American Tobacco Company, followed by 5 years as a Federal bank examiner with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, in Washington, D.C. His “claim to fame” was nationally publicized in 1955 when he discovered a multi-million dollar embezzlement scheme at a bank in Norfolk, VA. At the time, the amount was the largest theft in U.S. history known to have been perpetrated by a woman, and the events were later chronicled into a training primer titled “Miss Minnie’s Millions” for use by bank examiners. Shortly thereafter, he was offered a position as President of Petersburg Building and Loan Incorporated, serving as CEO and later Chairman of what became Virginia First Savings Bank until the merger of the company with BB&T Corporation in 1997. Bill’s life as a devoted husband and father was combined with his commitment to work and community service. His business affiliations were extensive, including serving as Chairman of the Virginia League of Savings

Institutions where he also chaired the Legislative Committee and co-authored with attorney Garland Harward a rewriting of the Code of Virginia regulating savings institutions, Chairman of the Southeastern League of Savings Institutions, Director of the United States League of Savings Institutions, Director of BB&T's Virginia state Board of Directors, and Chairman of Data Systems Corporation, a cooperative he organized which provided data servicing capabilities for community banks. His community service emphasized the city of Petersburg where he served as Chairman of the Petersburg Industrial Authority, President of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, organizer and first Chairman of Citizens for Progress, organizer and first Chairman of the Petersburg Economic Action Corporation, President of the Historic Petersburg Foundation, and Chairman of the Petersburg General Hospital Authority (now Bon Secours). Of his local efforts, he was most proud of chairing the capital committee and ultimately overseeing construction of the Petersburg YMCA. His positive mark will be left in many places, as he was not only a "dreamer" but also a "doer." Despite the foregoing list of activities he and Ginny found time to travel extensively, visiting over 100 countries, and all seven continents. He has now traveled to the "ULTIMATE DESTINATION" but will be greatly missed. Regrettably, due to current virus restrictions and consideration for the health of others, services will be private at graveside. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to: Virginia K. Patton, Scholarship Fund, Richard Bland College or to your favorite charity. Condolences may be registered at [www.jtmorriss.com](http://www.jtmorriss.com)

# Cemetery

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## **Blandford Cemetery**

319 S. Crater Rd

Petersburg, VA, 23805

# Comments

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“ I'm sorry to hear about the death of Mr. Patton. He was a kind man. I will miss our chats about politics and Petersburg . He used to be one my neighbors on Dodson.

**John Monet** - October 03, 2020 at 12:25 AM

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“ For the Patton Family,  
I am so deeply sorry for the loss of this great man. I was lucky to grow up with you all your wonderful parents.  
Please know that you will be in my thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Jane (nee Greer) Fowler

**Jane fowler** - June 15, 2020 at 12:30 AM

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“ Bill was a very special man. I loved his stories and enjoyed playing cards with him. He always won, but I didn't care. I listened to some more memories of his past. I've learned so much about him and his wife Ginny. Even though we only knew each other for the last 7 years, he become family. We soon called him "Opa" and he was part of our daily lives. He had a heart of gold and knew how to carry a conversation. He taught me to see the good in people by continuously reminding me of a song when I had a bad day: Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, and don't mess with Mr. In between! I live by this now and he'll always be in my heart. I miss him dearly, but I know he is at peace reunited with his first and only love, Ginny.

**Vanessa Taylor** - June 14, 2020 at 12:11 PM

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“ Mr Patton was the kindest neighbor. He would ride down the street in the golf cart with his little dog. He always stopped to speak and share a warm thought. He will be missed. Dodson road neighbor. T. Manns.

**Theresa Manns** - June 12, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ I never knew Bill but by the Legacy of his life I'm sure it was my loss. God bless his family  
**jane Atkins Burijon** - June 12, 2020 at 06:15 PM

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“ Julie Welch lit a candle in memory of William Allen Patton



Julie Welch - June 12, 2020 at 10:16 AM

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“ Allen, Dale, Chuck and Larry - I was very sorry to learn about your Dad's passing. While I am sure most remember him as a banker and a civic leader, to me he was Mr. Patton, our next-door neighbor. I spent many a day heading over to the Pattons to see his latest project, whether it was raising (and plucking) ducks, feeding carps, feeding Augie or taking the paddleboat out. And once I was old enough (or almost old enough), I could always spending an engaging hour with your Dad on your patio over a beer or two. I saw him about a year ago at the YMCA reopening after its renovation. He was in a wheelchair but made it to the ceremony, a fitting way to underscore his lifelong commitment to o bettering his adopted hometown community.

Mark Webb

Mark Webb - June 12, 2020 at 09:59 AM

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“ Mr. Patton has been a friend not only to my family, but also to Petersburg. Mr. Patton contributed so much to our city from city beautification to the Petersburg YMCA. Mr. Patton was instrumental in my return to Virginia and entering the banking profession, he was a friend as well as employer. Our sincere prayers go out the the Patton Family from  
Jocelyn, Tommy and John Jarratt.



John Jarratt - June 11, 2020 at 10:26 PM

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“ I have fond memories of Mr. Patton. He was very supportive of me and my family. With a heart of gold, he gave of himself! Family and this city meant everything to him. My deepest condolences go out to his family!  
The Hon.(ret.) Cassandra Conover, former Commonwealth’s Attorney, City of Petersburg

**Cassandra Stroud Conover** - June 11, 2020 at 10:17 PM

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“ My family has know Mr. Patton going back to the early sixties. My father, Bill Jarratt was a building contractor, and he and Mr Patton were business associates and very good friends.  
My sympathy and prayers to the family.

Tommy Jarratt

**Tommy Jarratt** - June 11, 2020 at 08:39 PM

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“ Jimmie Stewart lit a candle in memory of William Allen Patton



**Jimmie Stewart** - June 11, 2020 at 04:36 PM

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“ It was my honor and pleasure to work for Mr. Patton as an artist in his home and through gifts of paintings he graciously shared with the city of Petersburg. Our community has lost a great man, a doer! I'm am so grateful to have known such an outstanding human being!

**Kim Boyd McCarthy** - June 11, 2020 at 11:42 AM