



Viola Maria (Hakala) Burnley R.N.

June 16, 1931 - January 3, 2023

SHIRLEY: Viola Maria (Hakala) Burnley of Shirley passed peacefully on January 3, 2023.

She was born in Maynard, June 16, 1931, daughter of John and Selma (Majamaki) Hakala.

A 1949 graduate of Maynard High School, she went on to receive her nursing diploma from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston in 1952 and furthered her education at Fitchburg State College.

She married William Burnley in 1952, She traveled on an Army tour with him to Okinawa along with her baby daughter Cynthia where they remained for one year. They moved to Shirley in 1956 where they raised their children. She continued her RN nursing career working at the Nashoba Community Hospital, the Life Care Center in Littleton and Montachusett home Care until retirement in 1997.

She is a member of the United Church of Shirley (now the Christian Fellowship) and she belonged to the former Nashoba Community Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed all areas of craft making.

Her beloved husband, William passed away in 2003 after 51 years of marriage.

She was most dedicated to her children and grandchildren.

She leaves three children, Cynthia Staples and her husband Leonard, George Burnley and his wife Terri, Dr Susan Upham and her husband Dr Paul Upham,

four grand children Victoria Hewitt, Leslie Raber, Sandra Short and Matthew Upham and four great grandchildren Maya, Owen, Vivian and Trevor.

In accordance with her wishes there will be a graveside service, April 29, 2023, in the Shirley Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Christian Fellowship Church of Shirley or the Shirley Senior Center.

Cemetery Details

Center Cemetery

Brown Rd.
Shirley, MA 01464

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Center Cemetery
Brown Rd.
Shirley, MA 01464

Tribute Wall

JE

“ Viola was a very kind lady. My kids enjoyed seeing her at church and she always smiled at them. She was a wonderful lady and is truly missed. Until we meet again... rest in the Lord's hands. God Bless

Janice Espinoza - April 24, 2023 at 08:11 PM

BW

“ Viola was a beloved member of our church. She was a kind and wonderful woman of God. We miss her and are very thankful for her life and who she was. Rest in heavenly peace Viola, until we meet again.

Brian Welton - April 04, 2023 at 10:10 AM

TE

“ Viola was very well respected at Nashoba throughout the years I worked in both the Dietary and Nursing departments. A true professional with a solid, caring work ethic. Please accept my condolences.

Tim Elmer - January 21, 2023 at 03:02 PM

GE

“ I worked at Littleton House back in the 80's when she was the Director of Nursing. She was one of the Best, Suck a Sweet Caring Person.
I Always wondered how she was when I would go by Her house.
Will miss her knowing she is no longer with us..
RIP Mrs. Burnley,

Gail English - January 09, 2023 at 03:19 PM

PK

“ Vi was one of the sweetest, kindest woman I have ever met. I loved talking to her at the senior center. She was a very special lady. Rest in peace.

Patricia Krauchune - January 08, 2023 at 07:07 PM

TD

“ Vi was a wonderful friend and thoughtful neighbor, we have so many grateful memories that we will cherish through the years. She will be missed so very dearly.

Tris and Gloria Darby - January 08, 2023 at 06:57 PM

SU

Thank you for your kindness to my mother...she greatly appreciated it!

Susan Upham - January 09, 2023 at 01:13 PM

MS

“ I worked with Vi for a very long time at Nashoba Hospital. She was a very nice person and a great nurse. When I moved to Shirley, we rekindled our friendship at the Shirley Senior Center. She will be greatly missed.

Marcia Sullivan R.N.

Marcia Sullivan - January 08, 2023 at 02:18 PM

SN

“ Viola, or mama as I have known her . Was a kind devoted lady of her church and her family. Almost every Sunday she would drive to Ashburnham, MA to have dinner with her daughter Cindy and som-in law Lenny and share her daily life with them. Always bringing a goodie. Mostly she shared her kindness and loving manners and was a joy of sun light to be in her present. You will be missed Mama love you dearly RIP❤️ Sharon Nelson

Sharon Nelson - January 08, 2023 at 07:24 AM

JG

“ Susan, My condolences of the passing of your mom. I remember her being such a good nurse at Nashoba, a real professional. Janice Melanson Graham



Janice Melanson Graham - January 07, 2023 at 04:47 PM

SU

Thank you Janice. She lived a long life the way she wanted to...so that is a blessing.

Susan Upham - January 09, 2023 at 01:10 PM

MB

I worked with your mom at Nashoba from 1978-1983 as a new grad. She was an old-school nurse, always dressed immaculately in her white uniform and cap and she treated everyone kindly and with respect. She ran a tight ship and I learned a lot during those six years before we moved to Georgia. She sounds like the kind of mom that every family should have. May she Rest In Peace.

Mary Suddath RN BSN - January 16, 2023 at 08:31 AM