



## Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn

January 28, 1951 - November 24, 2015

Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn

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North Augusta, SC – Funeral Services for Mrs. Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn, of Fulton Street, North Augusta, SC, who under the steadfast care of her loving family was released to Heaven on Tuesday, November 24th, will be conducted Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Augusta, GA. Rev. Robert D. Fain and Dr. J. Andrew Menger officiating. Private Family Interment in Sunset Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends in the Church Parrish Hall following the service.

Born as the third of five daughters to the late Mr. and Mrs. William Willis Holding III of Wake Forest, NC, "Billie Leigh," as she was affectionately called in her early years, always stood out for her beauty and grace. She followed her mother's passion for dance and carried her same elegance and charm. Billie excelled as a talented ballerina at a young age and even danced her way to the title of Miss Wake County (NC) in 1969.

She was the beloved wife of James Carleton Vaughn, Jr., whom she married in 1991. She attended St. Mary's College in Raleigh, NC from 1969 – 1970, and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1973 with a degree in elementary education. She had four children with her first husband John William Thornton

III, MD, all of whom survive her: John William Thornton IV (“Jay”), Andrew Holding Thornton, MD (“Andy”), Bradford Hunt Thornton (“Brad”), and Virginia Thornton Merrill (“Ginny”). Her children carried their mother’s love for fitness and movement, succeeding on both the national and international stages in gymnastics as well as in other sports endeavors like basketball and cheerleading.

A woman of boundless energy, Billie lived a life of service to others and showed a relentless desire to care and to provide – whether it was through raising her four children, cooking one of her well known elaborate family meals, or through her roles of service in the community. She served as an elementary school teacher in Durham, NC in the 1970’s, and then as a substitute junior high teacher in Augusta, GA in the 1980’s. She went on to pursue her ultimate calling of service by obtaining a degree from Augusta University School of Nursing in 1991, became a registered nurse, and has worked in various neurosurgical settings for over twenty years, most recently at Augusta Back.

She showed a lifelong passion for exercise, dancing as a ballerina well into her adult years and becoming an avid walker and bicyclist. She could be seen several times each week riding her bike along the Greenway near her newly built home in North Augusta. She and husband Carleton were very active members in their church, Church of the Good Shepherd, as well as at the Augusta Country Club where they frequently enjoyed evening meals and socializing. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, whether attending their sporting events, keeping them on her days off from work, or helping prepare their birthday parties.

In addition to her husband and four children, she is survived by daughters-in-law Maryanna Moody Thornton and Neely Davis Thornton, DMD; son-in-law Brett Colin Merrill; stepson James Carleton Vaughn III and his wife Marjorie

Pelge Vaughn; stepson Edwin Campbell Vaughn; stepdaughter Louise Vaughn Joyner and her husband Richard Joyner; and a total of nine grandchildren, including Liam Thornton, McClure Thornton, Beckham Thornton, Sydney Thornton, Colin Merrill, Joshua Vaughn, Stanley Vaughn, Win Vaughn, and Cannon Joyner.

In addition, Billie is survived by her sisters: Emily Holding Andrews and husband, William Pleasant Andrews; Elizabeth Hunt Holding (“Libby”); and Cynthia Harris Holding (“Cyndi”); sister-in-law, Elizabeth Davenport Sharpe, MD and husband, Kenneth Allan Sharpe, MD; and brother in law Joseph Maxwell Vallotton. A host of admiring nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews also survive her. In addition to her late mother and father, she is predeceased by her sister, Vicky Holding Nelson, and sister-in-law, Louise Vaughn Vallotton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Church of the Good Shepherd or to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181). Visit the registry at [www.poseycares.com](http://www.poseycares.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Good Shepherd  
2230 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ *Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ *Billie Leigh was a beautiful, elegant woman, just like her mother and sisters. She gave so much to others as a teacher, nurse, and community servant. We are all very sorry that she is gone and extend sincere condolences to the entire family.*

*David and Jeanne Smoot and Family*

David and Jeanne Smoot - December 01, 2015 at 11:20 AM



“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. Prayers for peace and comfort are being said by many. We loved Billie and will miss her! Sorry we missed service due to being out of town.*

Marti Flippo - November 29, 2015 at 06:30 AM



“ *Donna And Chris Allen lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



Donna and Chris Allen - November 28, 2015 at 05:43 AM

KD

“ *Kim Davenport lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Kim Davenport** - November 27, 2015 at 07:10 PM

SH

“ *Prayers are being lifted as you grieve the loss of Billie Leigh. She was beautiful with such great talent and spirit.*

**Sherry Harris** - November 27, 2015 at 03:43 PM

PW

“ *Phylenthia Williams lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Phylenthia Williams** - November 26, 2015 at 05:56 PM

BE

“ *Ben And Sue Estes lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Ben and Sue Estes** - November 26, 2015 at 05:32 PM



“ *Carleton, Jay and I send our love and faithful prayers to you, and all of the family and this time of such great loss.*



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**Ann Jackson** - November 26, 2015 at 08:04 AM

WB

“ *Wayne & Kitty Beveridge lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Wayne & Kitty Beveridge** - November 25, 2015 at 09:14 PM

PS

“ *Pam Silvers lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Pam Silvers** - November 25, 2015 at 08:51 PM

RA

“ *Rosemary Pearre Anderson lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Rosemary Pearre Anderson** - November 25, 2015 at 08:25 PM

CE

“ Courtney Ellyson lit a candle in memory of  
Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn



Courtney Ellyson - November 25, 2015 at 02:44 PM

DE

“ Diane Eubanks lit a candle in memory of Billie  
Leigh Holding Vaughn



Diane Eubanks - November 25, 2015 at 02:31 PM

TB

“ Tanya Butler lit a candle in memory of Billie  
Leigh Holding Vaughn



Tanya Butler - November 25, 2015 at 02:26 PM

TC

“ Condolence to the family



Teresa Cason - November 25, 2015 at 12:29 PM

BC

“ *Brenda Center lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Brenda Center** - November 25, 2015 at 12:21 PM

VP

“ *Valerie Parker lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Valerie Parker** - November 25, 2015 at 12:13 PM

LD

“ *Laurie Durden lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Laurie Durden** - November 25, 2015 at 12:08 PM

 Pam  
Moore

“ *Pam Moore lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



**Pam Moore** - November 25, 2015 at 12:05 PM

MH

“ *Melanie Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



Melanie Hamilton - November 25, 2015 at 11:19 AM

KC

“ *Kristi Capper lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



Kristi Capper - November 25, 2015 at 09:56 AM

KJ

“ *Kathy Jones lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



Kathy Jones - November 25, 2015 at 09:40 AM

CP

“ *Chris Perdue lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



Chris Perdue - November 25, 2015 at 09:21 AM

BR

“ *Barb Rose lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Barb Rose** - November 25, 2015 at 09:16 AM

CP

“ *Carolina Volcan Poteet lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Carolina Volcan Poteet** - November 25, 2015 at 08:46 AM

AK

“ *Angela Kersey lit a candle in memory of Billie Leigh Holding Vaughn*



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**Angela Kersey** - November 25, 2015 at 08:44 AM