

In Memory of Nancy St. Clair Talley
By Betty Schutte

Since we met last fall in Staunton for the Board of Governors we have lost a valued member of our organization.

It seems right and proper at the opening meeting of the Board of Governors to honor the memory of Nancy St. Clair Talley, a right and proper Past President of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Her accomplishments are legendary, and her community, and indeed the state of Virginia are beneficiaries of her time and talents. Her deep commitment to her community centered on education, conservation and historic preservation. To know Nancy Talley was to admire her. She was poised, articulate, and superbly organized. Her keen mind and exceptional command of the English language made her a natural leader.

Those of us who knew her well have an additional vantage point of a caring friend with a delightful sense of humor.

Two GCV memories stand out. First, Nancy standing amidst her dancing daffodils. Each spring the Spout Run garden was more beautiful than the last and she was forever dividing and sharing.

The other was Nancy in her little blue Volvo station wagon in which she went from one end of the state to the other. Her sense of direction was notoriously poor, and she accepted getting lost as part of life's challenges. Once, in Staunton, when she seemed very late, we began to worry a bit, as she was coming to the Cochran's Stuart House where she had been many times. When she finally arrived, she was not ruffled at all - she only inquired of the host, "George, I am sorry I'm late. When did you move your house?" We never let her forget that one!

But no tribute to Nancy would be complete without the mention of her commitment to her family: Lilburn, four sons and their wives and nine special grandchildren, the youngest named Nancy. She cared for Lilburn lovingly through a long illness and continued to live at her beloved Spout Run until she died.