

## **Tribute to Former GCV President Jean Printz** **by Ellen Godwin, the Nansemond River Garden Club**

Every organization needs a Jean Printz, 31st President of the Garden Club of Virginia. She came to the presidency with extraordinary preparation acquired during 12 years of service on the Board of Directors. Through all those years, she was a meticulous and unflagging advocate for perfection and detail. And so it was in the beginning, and now at the end, her achievements speak the loudest.

During her presidency, the Common Wealth Award Fund doubled and Ecology Camp became a reality. New handbooks emerged for the Annual and Board of Governors meetings. Two restorations were completed, and two new ones were begun. Once, during her 20,000 miles of travels, she went to speak to the Tidewater clubs at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk when a bomb threat and evacuation occurred. She was prepared, though; she had escaped from Cuba minutes before Castro shut it down in 1958. She had gone there to visit her uncle, Walter Schuyler, for a few months and stayed 14 years. Her relatives warned, "For heaven's sake, don't ask Jean to visit you."

Wherever she was, be it Cuba or the commonwealth, Jean served her community in leadership positions. She drove an ambulance during WWII in Washington, D.C. She served on numerous boards; their number included the Daughters of the American Revolution, Virginia National Bank, the Miller School of Albemarle, Martha Jefferson Hospital and Martha Jefferson House, the University of Virginia Health Services Foundation and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Community Foundation. Her service also drew recognition as signified by awards. Among them was the GCV's Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

Her 96 years, which ended Dec. 1, 2014, were filled with meaningful activity, especially checking for mistakes and typos. As GCV Parliamentarian, she published the only known correct Register (now called the Directory). Current President Jeanette Cadwallender, once Recording Secretary, recalls receiving requests from Jean for copies of the minutes of our Annual and Board of Governors meetings. Even from her nursing home bed, Jean was still checking up on us.

She astonished us all with her accounting skills, her computer savvy and her photographic memory, and terrified us with her ban on lobbying, her standards of excellence and her driving. Jean was old school in a rapidly changing world, and she insisted, as does our President Jeanette, that we give special emphasis to the precepts set forth by our GCV founders.

Jean embraced us all with hospitality at her home, Wilton, in Albemarle County. Wilton was enhanced with every known variety of lilac, and it was here she boldly drove her tractor with both her Boston bull terrier and her companion from Cuba, Ruby, in hot pursuit. Those of us who knew Jean Printz bear the marks of her grace, her kindness and her ability to bring out the best in everybody, provided you did it correctly.

## **Tribute to Dorothy Montgomery**

**by Katty Mears, the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore**

One of Dot Montgomery's first duties in the Garden Club of Virginia was to offer the opening prayer at the annual meeting. When handed the microphone, which had yet to be used that day, Dot began in her melodious voice, "Dear heavenly Father, dear heavenly Father, can you hear me? Can you hear me?" The ladies in attendance convulsed with laughter.

Dorothy Louise Harris Montgomery was born on May 30, 1924, in Spartanburg, S.C., a place that remained dear to her; it is there that she is buried. She was graduated from St. Mary's School and Converse College. She earned a graduate degree at Columbia University and remained in New York as an assistant fashion editor at McCall's magazine. After marriage, she and husband James B. Montgomery moved to Martinsville where she spent her years until failing health led to a move to Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville. Dot and Jim were devoted; ever supportive, he accompanied her throughout the state on her GCV endeavors. While in Martinsville, the twosome raised two daughters. They gave staunch support to Christ Episcopal Church where they aided efforts to beautify the church's interior and exterior. The Montgomerys also numbered among the founders of Carlisle School.

Dot led the GCV from 1982 to 1984 with graciousness, charm, the carriage of a lady and the undisputed hand of a steel magnolia. When she spoke, voice tinged with its southern accent, she could mesmerize while commanding attention. Her command of the English language and her mastery of vocabulary made it a pleasure to hear her or to read her work.

While presiding, often in one of her ultra-suede suits that were then the rage, Dot was instrumental in the creation of the GCV member's handbook and Update, a spin-off of the Journal. She worked with the Conservation and Beautification Committee. She was ecstatic to see her dream of planting 13 "Welcome to Virginia" signs at state-line entrances come true. In order to realize the dream, she and the GCV collaborated with the Virginia Department of Transportation. In 2004, the GCV awarded Dot the well-deserved Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. She received it surrounded by "her girls," members of the Martinsville Garden Club.

Dot Montgomery died on March 5, 2015. She stated in Follow the Green Arrow what she would like written on her tombstone:

"Not all good, not all bad,  
Wife of Jim, mother of Lisa and Lou,  
President of the GCV.  
That's plenty."  
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