

Minute 3-20-2022:06: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Memorial Minute for Bette Turlington.

TURLINGTON (BURKS), Elizabeth "Bette"

Bette Turlington died December 23, 2021, in Brookhaven, GA. She was born in Washington D.C. in 1932 to Jesse A. and Elizabeth Morton Burks and moved to Atlanta at age seven. She graduated from North Fulton High School at 16, earned her B.A. degree in English from Mercer, and later received an M.S. from GA Tech's College of Industrial Management. She married Edwin Mack Turlington Jr. and lovingly raised 4 children.

Bette passionately lived her values. She was an activist in the civil rights movement and co-authored a book, "BECAUSE OF SEX: A Handbook on Sex Discrimination in Employment." She also strived to improve education. She was a co-founder of The Paideia School and later a research assistant for Atlanta Public Schools.

Throughout her life she searched for spiritual community in the Baptist church of her childhood, in Episcopal, Congregational, and Unitarian congregations before eventually becoming a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting in 1991. She became a close friend of Elizabeth Hendricks who welcomed Bette to her first meeting. Bette then became the first to welcome people new to meeting especially gay and lesbian friends. After attending her first Gathered Meeting Retreat, Bette said, "I felt truly connected when I attended a Gathered Meeting Retreat. The first night we all introduced ourselves, deeply, and I felt that I *knew* 20 people. I later told Gay Houghton that I can't stand organized religion, and she responded: "You don't have to worry about Quakers being organized." Bette loved these retreats and helped plan them for many years. Bette was also a member of the meeting's first Spiritual Nurture Group and helped Daphne Clement write a Pendle Hill pamphlet describing this process. She continued meeting monthly with her Spiritual Nurture Group until 2020.

Friends offered these reflections:

Like so many of us, I thoroughly enjoyed being with Bette because she was so upbeat and curious about everything. She was always interested in what others had to say and in learning something new. I'm very glad that I, along with a few friends, was able to sing with Bette when she was at an assisted living center nearby. I also admired her spunk when she came to our Quaker women's lunches at Thai Chili in her wheelchair, having arranged with a transport van to drop her off and pick her up. She was able to light up the whole room with her smile and bring joy to others with her laugh. I will miss Bette and her wonderfully quirky sense of humor. She was a loving spirit and one who often complimented others.

She was a writer, editor, and avid reader. Most of all, she loved to talk and was a great conversationalist and active listener. Favorite pastimes included cooking, birding, and tent camping with her family. "Vitamin N" -being outside in nature- was a priority. She also loved watching Braves games with her beloved husband Ed. She'll be remembered for her big smile and uproarious laughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, stepmother (Margaret England Burks) and 3 older brothers: Arnold, Ralph, and Bob. Survivors include her children, Beckie (Ken) Fuller, Maggie and Mary Turlington, Julia Turlington (Mickele McCleary); 3 grandchildren, Annie Laurie, Patrick, and Dylan Fuller (Veronica Park); and great-granddaughter Jiah Park Fuller.