

Sylvester Biggs Fetner, 95, of Williamsburg, VA, better known as Biggs, peacefully departed this life on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

On May 6, 1925, Sylvester Biggs Fetner was born to the late Robert Earl Fetner and Lillian Biggs Fetner of Rockingham, North Carolina.

Biggs' early years were spent growing up in Washington, DC, and his first job was at Western Union, delivering telegrams to the White House. In 1943 Biggs enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving in WWII. He was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and participated in the assault and occupation of Iwo Jima in March 1945. Biggs was honorably discharged in February 1946. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserve until May 1951.

Biggs met his wife, Jacqueline Homan, while she worked as a secretary for the United States Marine Corp. They were married September 7, 1946 and were blessed with six children. They celebrated 74 years of marriage in 2020.

In November 1947, Biggs began his civilian career as an Air Traffic Controller for the FAA working in several airport towers throughout the state of Virginia, including National/Reagan Airport when he advanced to Chief Controller. He retired August 31, 1979 after 35 years of service. He returned to Patrick Henry International Airport, in Newport News, VA in August 1981, during the air traffic controller strike. After officially retiring from the FAA in September 1983, Biggs continued to serve in public transportation until fully retiring in 1992 and enjoyed the good life living in his dream home that he and Jackie built overlooking the beautiful Lake Pasbehegh in Williamsburg, VA. He enjoyed model trains as a hobby. Biggs selflessly gave service to his neighborhood, First Colony on the James, where he volunteered countless hours with maintenance upkeep of the lake, marina and special projects. He and Jackie spent many days traveling to the grandchildren's sporting events. Biggs was also an avid Nationals /Senators baseball fan.

Biggs is preceded in death by his parents; brother Robert E. Fetner, Jr.; and son Gary Lee Fetner. He is survived by his children Ronald Fetner (Catherine); Janet Fetner Thomas (Olin); Julie Fetner Hammack; Timothy Fetner (Ann); and Jennifer Fetner Raymond. He was blessed with 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren and a huge loving extended family.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Joyce Fetner, 96, of Williamsburg, VA, peacefully departed this life on Thursday, July 25, 2024.

On January 29, 1928, Jacqueline Joyce Homan was born to the late Harold Edgar Homan and Beulah Bell Matteson of Silver Creek, New York where she spent her early years growing up helping her parents attend to the family farm and the care of her younger siblings.

After graduating from high school in 1946, Jackie moved to Washington DC to work as a secretary for the United States Marine Corp during WWII.

Jackie met her husband, Sylvester "Biggs" Fetner, while living at his mother's boarding home. They were married September 7, 1946 and celebrated 74 years of marriage in 2020, prior to Biggs' passing later that year.

After starting a family, Jackie resigned from the USMC to become a full-time homemaker, raising six children. After living in several different locations in New York and Virginia, Jackie and Biggs settled in Williamsburg, Virginia and enjoyed the good life, living in their dream home that she and Biggs built overlooking the beautiful Lake Pasbehegh. Jackie enjoyed sewing and gardening. She selflessly gave service to their neighborhood, First Colony on the James, where she volunteered countless hours with the garden club and special projects. She and Biggs spent many days traveling to the grandchildren's sporting events and was an avid Nationals baseball fan.

Jackie is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Richard Harold; husband, Sylvester Biggs Fetner and son, Gary Lee Fetner. She is survived by her sister, Roberta Homan Moger; sister, Beth Homan Smallwood (Richard); children, Ronald Fetner (Catherine); Janet Fetner Thomas (Olin); Julie Fetner Hammack; Timothy Fetner (Ann); and Jennifer Fetner Raymond. She was blessed with 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, and a huge loving extended family.

Participants in Today's Service

Tom Marshall, Organist
Josh Clayton, Video
Jimmy McCarter, Sound



Sylvester Biggs Fetner

May 6, 1925
December 31, 2020

Jacqueline Homan Fetner

January 28, 1928
July 25, 2024

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
for
Sylvester Biggs and Jacqueline Homan Fetner

October 4, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Williamsburg, Virginia

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE *Lake Pasebehegh* Ron Fetner, son

RECOGNITION OF NAVAL SERVICE Tim Fetner, son

OFFERING OF FLOWERS Catherine Fetner, Ann Fetner

THE WORD OF GRACE

Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and I am life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death.
Because I live, you shall live also.

GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God
and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the lives of Biggs and Jackie Fetner.
We come together in grief, acknowledging our sense of loss.
May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort,
in sorrow hope, in death Resurrection.

*HYMN *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (red book)

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 23 Rebecca Allan, granddaughter
John 14:1-4 Olin Gary Thomas, grandson
Revelation 21:4-5 Olin Thomas, son-in-law

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Janet Thomas, daughter
Chris Raymond, grandson
Amy Hammack, granddaughter
Jennifer Raymond, daughter

SPECIAL MUSIC

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Janet Thomas, daughter
Julie Hammack, daughter
Sarah Downey, granddaughter

WORDS OF FAITH

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

POEM

Sun Sets on Thee

Kimberly Doherty, granddaughter

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of love, we thank you for all with which you have blessed us even to this day:
for the gift of joy in days of health and strength
and for the gifts of your abiding presence and promise in days of pain and grief.
We praise you for home and friends, and for our baptism and place in your Church
with all who have faithfully lived and died.
Above all else we thank you for Jesus,
who knew our griefs, who died our death and rose for our sake,
and who lives and prays for us. And as he taught us, so now we pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

READING FROM JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

Julie Hammack, daughter

*HYMN

It Is Well with My Soul

UMH 377 (red book)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Box I'm Looking Through

Ron Fetner, son

A Service of Committal will take place in the WUMC Memorial Garden.
A reception will follow the Service of Committal in the Atrium.