



## Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero

March 24, 1951 - September 6, 2021

Mary Bullitt Taggart Rainero, lovingly known to many as "Butch," died unexpectedly September 6, 2021 in Bristol, VA as a result of complications from Type I diabetes, a disease she fought with unsurpassed courage, strength, and resilience. Mrs. Rainero never uttered a complaint. Rather, she treasured each day as a gift to be embraced.

Born on March 24th, 1951 in Norton, VA, Mrs. Rainero was the middle daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Bullitt Taggart (Virginia Tate Taggart), both formerly of Norton, VA and Bristol, TN. Mrs. Rainero's love of family and friends, her tenacious spirit and her commitment to excellence were evident from the time she was a little girl. As one of her cousin's remarked this week, "God broke the mold when He made Mary Bullitt."

An honors student throughout her education, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Medical College of Virginia (VCU) in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. Employed by Duke University Hospital following her graduation, Mary Bullitt returned to the Tri-Cities area in 1976 to join the physical therapy department of Holston Valley Medical Center. On April 1, 1977, she married Mr. Louis Stevan Rainero, who has indeed been the love of her life and her constant best friend for 45 years.

Mrs. Rainero's zeal remained evident in all that she did as a wife, a mother, a friend, a community leader and a volunteer. She was instrumental in the development and growth of her family's business while simultaneously serving as an executive member of the Junior League of Bristol. Because of her philanthropic leadership, members of the JLB successfully established a local chapter of the American Diabetes Association in Bristol. She was also an active member in several other organizations including the Child Study Club, the Blue Stocking Club, the Hill and Dale Garden Club, the PEO Sisterhood and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Additionally, Mrs. Rainero served on the Sullins Academy Board of Directors where she was named interim Head Mistress during the 1992-1993 school year. At the time of her death, Mrs. Rainero remained a member of State Street United Methodist Church where she volunteered and served in numerous capacities for over 30 years, including those of Sunday School Teacher and Floral and Altar Committee Chair.

When reflecting upon the joyful legacy she leaves, Mrs. Rainero will be remembered for the wholehearted way in which she embraced life. She was indeed a master at gardening and floral design, which was first cultivated by her mother, while she also had an unsurpassed ability to welcome friends and family into her home with grace and ease. Her undying love of her husband, her children and grandchildren, her family and her treasured friends will remain alive in each heart she touched. Certainly, her Christian faith was evident in the way she lived.

Mrs. Rainero is survived by her husband, Louis Stevan Rainero, and their children, Virginia Rainero Crawford and her husband, Rob; and Louis Stevan Rainero Jr., and his wife, Alison. She is also survived by six loving grandchildren: Ford, James Bullitt and Harrison Crawford; and Louis, Eva Grace, and Pierce Rainero. Survivors also include her younger sister, Katherine Taggart Crutchfield, along with several nieces and nephews, cousins, family members, and countless friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her older sister, Presley Taggart Downs.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy they have received in recent days.

They would also like to thank Mrs. Rainero's medical teams that have consistently provided her with excellent care over the years in her battle against Type I Diabetes. The family is forever grateful.

Because of the ongoing challenges inherent in the current pandemic, the family will be holding private services for Mrs. Rainero on Friday, September 10, 2021. Entombment will be in the Rainero family mausoleum in Glenwood Cemetery.

For those so desiring, memorial contributions may be made to State Street United Methodist Church, 650 Valley Drive, Bristol, VA 24201, or to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - <https://www.jdrf.org>.

Those wishing to express their condolences may do so by visiting [akardfuneralhome.com](http://akardfuneralhome.com)

Akard Funeral Home (423) 989-4800 is serving Mrs. Rainero's family.

# Cemetery Details

## Glenwood Cemetery

839 Bluff City Hwy  
Bristol, TN 37620

# Tribute Wall

KW

“ *Stevan and family, we are so saddened to learn of your loss. Butch was an incredible woman who made the world a better place! Our deepest condolences.*  
*Jim & Kay Wright*

**Kay Wright** - September 28, 2021 at 11:55 PM

JG

“ *Steven, Donna & I were truly shocked to learn of your loss. It seems to me that if ever there were two people truly "soul mates" then you and Butch were those two people. I can't begin to imagine the loss you and your Family are having to experience; but am comforted as I am sure you too are, by their being there for you and for one another, and for all the wonderful memories of times with Butch that you all share. I know many, like myself, would have liked to have attended services for her, but know the times and the privacy you now need is more important. Too much time has past without our paths crossing, and I hope we can change that sometime soon. Both Donna and I have you all continually in our thoughts and prayers, and pray that your many memories with Butch will bring you some comfort, knowing how fortunate you are to have had her for your wife and friend these many years. Sincerely, your friend always, Jim*

**Jimmy Gilly** - September 10, 2021 at 08:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.*



September 10, 2021 at 01:51 PM

AW

“ *Butch was a fine beautiful lady who will be greatly missed. May the thought of her free from pain in perfect peace be a comfort to you.*

**ann woods** - September 10, 2021 at 09:37 AM

FF

“ *Love and prayers for Stevan and all the Raineros and extended family. All the Fletchers*

**fletcher family** - September 10, 2021 at 09:08 AM

DL

“ *A true lady and friend. A legacy to be treasured and an inspiration to her family and friends*

Dr. John Lentz - September 09, 2021 at 08:27 PM

BM

“ *You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May the good memories help you during this difficult time.*

*Rodney and Belinda Mullins*

Belinda Mullins - September 09, 2021 at 07:17 PM

SO

*Our deepest condolences for your loss of a gracious lady. Prayers that your memories provide you all much comfort. Sam & Scharr Oakley*

Sam & Scharr Oakley - September 10, 2021 at 02:21 PM

CB

“ *Butch was such a Lovely Lady Special To Everyone She Met!! She was a joy to her wonderful Husaband Stevan and Children Ginny And Chief who eere lucky to have her in their lives!!Love To All!!In My Prayers!!!❤️❤️🥰*

Clare Snyder Branch - September 09, 2021 at 07:12 PM

CB

“ *Butch was always kind & generous to everyone . She was understated elegant & beautiful.*

*I knew her mother & father & she shared all of their wonderful qualities.  
I shall sincerely miss her .*

*Charles Burroughs*

Charles Burroughs - September 09, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.*



September 09, 2021 at 03:53 PM

PS

“ *Paramount Bristol Board & Staff purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.*



Paramount Bristol Board & Staff - September 09, 2021 at 01:59 PM

PB

“ *So sad to hear this.  
Butch touched my heart,  
It was a honor to know her and work for,I feel blessed to have known her*

Pam Brown - September 09, 2021 at 01:15 PM

DS

“ *Stevan,Kay and Family*

*I am so sad to learn of the passing of such wonderful and happy friend. Her life was far too short on earth but will be eternal in Heaven . Our prayers are for those left behind to remember her forever.*

*Don and Carol Shumaker*

Don Shumaker - September 09, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.*



September 09, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *Steve and family, I always loved to be around Butch. Our history is small, but it was always a high point to be the receiver of her huge energy when face to face. My prayers to you All during this tragic time  
Love, Lean Goodpasture Carroll*

McLean Carroll - September 09, 2021 at 11:33 AM

LP

“ So sad to hear this... I always thought of Butch as an angel on Earth. She took charge and helped with my sister, Lisa during her battle with Cancer. I can see her and Lisa smiling their big smiles now. She was truly a wonderful person. My condolences to Stevan, Kay and all the family. Lynda and Joe Perry

Lynda Perry - September 09, 2021 at 10:19 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



September 09, 2021 at 09:46 AM

MS

“ Mike & Sherrie Spiegler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



Mike & Sherrie Spiegler - September 09, 2021 at 09:22 AM



“ Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



September 09, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



September 09, 2021 at 08:12 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



September 09, 2021 at 07:21 AM

RG

“ Reda Green lit a candle in memory of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero



Reda Green - September 09, 2021 at 12:47 AM

JC

“ I'll never forget the day I met her, I said I can't call you Butch. She said well I won't answer to anything else. Many many projects my family and I will miss her .

Jim Champion - September 08, 2021 at 10:52 PM

KM

“ Remembering Butch with warmth, as a friendly THS relationship. Beautiful inside & out...and as reflected in her obituary, is proof of the person I knew then. RIP beautiful lady...condolences to the family and friends

Kathy Martin - September 08, 2021 at 10:37 PM

SW

“ I said today that Butch was a force of nature. She was so energetic and happy. Our hearts go out to Steve and her family. She will be missed by all who knew her.  
Harry and Susan

Susan Williams - September 08, 2021 at 09:47 PM

JB

“ Jeff, Sherry, Claire, Trevor and Bailey purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



Jeff, Sherry, Claire, Trevor and Bailey - September 08, 2021 at 08:36 PM

SF

“ Our prayers and condolences to the entire Rainero family during the sudden loss of an amazing woman who will be missed by so many. But so many amazing memories of Butch will be cherished by family, friends and the community!

~Dr. James, Brenda and Sarah Otis



Sarah Otis & Family - September 08, 2021 at 08:33 PM

TC

“ I worked for Butch and family for years. They were good to me and my family. She will be missed. “Big Tommy”

Tom Collins - September 08, 2021 at 07:47 PM

CC

“ The Rainero family are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow. Chris Collins and family.

Chris Collins - September 08, 2021 at 05:53 PM

AO

“ We are so sorry to learn of Butch's passing. She was always a very friendly person everything we met her. She will certainly be missed by everyone she came in contact with.

Prayers to the family and relatives.

Archie Hubbard and Gwen Orman

Archie Hubbard and ,Gwen Orman - September 08, 2021 at 05:40 PM

JF

Steve, so sorry for your loss. Prayers to you and your family.

Jody Fleming - September 11, 2021 at 04:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Bullitt "Butch" Taggart Rainero.



September 08, 2021 at 04:46 PM

JG

“ *Butch was a cherished friend who will be missed greatly! She was always ready to join in and help no matter the task. She has done so many wonderful things for our family. She will be missed so much. Praying for the entire family during this difficult time!*

*With much love,  
Janice and TC Greene and family*

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**Janice Greene** - September 08, 2021 at 04:33 PM

MT

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you in your sorrow.*  
*Mimi Tilley*

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**Mimi Tilley** - September 08, 2021 at 04:18 PM

TM

*I knew Butch several years ago when my children attended Sullins Academy in Bristol. Her son Steven and my son Dustin were in the same age. She was so great to work with and very focused on our children getting a good education. Butch was always ready to help with any project for the school. She will defiantly be missed by family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Teresa Mullins*

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**Teresa Mullins** - September 09, 2021 at 08:18 AM

MH

*So sorry to hear of Butch's passing. Steve, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Mike & Joanne Hodgson*

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**mike hodgson** - September 14, 2021 at 10:37 PM

JM

*Having grown up with Pres, Mary Bullitt, and Kay along with their wonderful parents, Ginny and Josh, I developed a deep and abiding respect for the family and their long list of accomplishments in southwest Virginia. My deepest sympathy goes out to Kay and the Rainero family.*

*Jim McClung*

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**Jim McClung** - September 16, 2021 at 09:19 AM