

## For love of BFA



**Susan Joy Clark Neese** passed away unexpectedly, in her sleep, at her home on January 5, 2022. The cause may never be known for certain but it is believed previous health issues were complicated by COVID 19. She grew up on many and varied US Army bases around the world as her father was a career soldier. This gypsy life gave her the ability to speak in French and allowed her to assimilate easily with others of many different cultures and traditions.

Susan was trained as a Computer Programmer, worked as a Funeral Home Consultant, was an avid Scrapbooker and a Genealogist on top of being what her family refers to as "the world's best mother, sister, wife, and friend. But she over-achieved at Grand-motherhood!

She spoke often of her immediate family; of beloved husband Ron, daughter Lara, sons Jonathan and Steven and their spouses. Her grandchildren, Julie, Ivan, Vincent, Lana, Gavin and Luci were her all-time delight, Her 6 brothers and sisters and their families as well as her mother, Joan Clark, were all a part of her intimate world. Cooking food seemed to be not only a necessity but a joy for her to share. Her new stove top was a thing of beauty for her and welcomed with a feast!

She rose up among those who attended the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Bondurant Family Association in Portland, Oregon. Little did we realize then what an amazing gift we had all been given. There was premonition when her mama named her Susan Joy.

The BFA was not her first foray into the world of genealogy. She was a fan of BFA's Mary Bondurant Warren and was very knowledgeable of Mary's books on our history. She spoke of a somewhat different and in-depth DNA project and promptly set about collecting DNA samples and \$\$ from as many present as she could. Never a time waster, she set straight to her work.... Her open enthusiasm, her smile, her all-inclusive attitude and the confidence with which she spoke all went together with her wish to be a part of something new, something big and definitely a part of our collective future. She was quickly absorbed by the Executive Board as their Secretary and her energy and attitude were infectious to all. Changes happened to enhance the genealogy work and direction the BFA would take for the immediate future to benefit all the membership.



This writer was not alone in feeling caught up as she opened her arms wide and collected many of us; just gathered us into her family. She knew herself and refused to tolerate anything which might cause harm to the path she walked. Besides her family, her energy and her purpose took precedence to anything which might detract from the goals she wanted to achieve on behalf of us all.

The beginnings of her mission to help find and gather together the Bondurant Families of Color was so dear to her heart. She reached out and used her expertise and her knowledge of both DNA as well as hands-on research to aid in their quests. It is good to know her forethought in naming co-administrators for both this project as well as the Y-DNA project begun in 2019 will continue. She also went through the rigorous exercise of becoming a member of the Virginia Huguenot Society and was in the process of encouraging more of us to take that journey with her to form a West Coast branch of the Society.

We will look to her enthusiasm, her drive and her caring as we continue what we are about.

**Susan has left fingerprints on all she touched,  
footprints in the hearts of those she walked with  
and the warmest of memories with those she loved.**

That she is and will continue to be sorely missed by those of us who had the joy and honor to work with her in the BFA is not debatable. We will miss all that was Susan Joy Clark Neese.

Rest in Peace