



The 2022 Influencer Award Winner Virginia Marshburn has been influencing The Summit community since the day it opened! Virginia was the first resident to walk through the doors and has been a pillar of the community ever since.

Virginia was born in Lancaster County, on the Northern Neck of Virginia, in September of 1924. She lived there with her family until she was in the 6th grade on a dairy farm. The Great Depression caused the family to fall on hard times, and they moved across the river to Tappahannock. Virginia's father became an insurance salesman to make ends meet, and after a time the family moved further inland to Toano, where Virginia went to high school.

Influenced greatly by her aunt who was a supervisor of schools, Virginia had always wanted to be a teacher. After graduating from high school, she attended Farmville State Teachers College as an English major with a business minor. She started teaching even before she completed her education; she helped her typing professor as a freshman, teaching other students how to type.

Virginia describes herself as "a joiner," always wanting to be involved in whatever community she happened to be in, playing a part and helping others. She was editor of

the college newsletter when she was a senior at Farmville Teachers College and delivered the salutatory address at graduation. She graduated in 1946 and married her husband, Rev. Earl Marshburn, three years later.

Virginia and her husband spent their married life serving churches in Virginia and Maryland and raising their two daughters. Virginia has a long connection with LifeSpire of Virginia. Through their ministry, Virginia and her husband voted in 1949 along with other ministers to create a haven for retirees. She was acquainted with Dr. James T. Edwards, then pastor of Culpeper Baptist Church, who became the founder and the first CEO of Virginia Baptist Homes. Virginia's mother and her sister both lived at The Chesapeake in Newport News.

Virginia and Earl retired to South Boston, Virginia, and after he passed away, Virginia's daughters persuaded her to move to Lynchburg. She moved into The Summit upon its opening in 2003 and has supported her community by serving on the Welcome Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee. She is active in the Prayer Group, sending cards of encouragement to those who need it.

Virginia is most proud of her family, and she enjoys visiting and keeping up with her daughters and her four grandchildren and her six great-grandchildren. She is proud and honored to be The Summit's first Influencer! All her life, she has sought to put her faith first, other people second, and herself last, and lives her life by the Golden Rule. Her life of ministry and education proves to be rewarding even now, when she receives notes and messages from former students or parishioners she's come in contact with over the years.

A former student recently wrote to her and told her what an impact she had in this student's life, seventy-three years ago. She has planted those seeds of faith and love all her life and hopes to continue to do so today. Virginia looks forward now to continuing to encourage and influence the residents and team members of The Summit with her life and her ongoing participation in the community.