

## Mr. Vance Everett Gulledge

Mr. Vance Everett Gulledge, 76, died Saturday, March 6, 2021, at his home in Lilesville.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Teddy Lawson officiating. Interment followed in Lilesville Cemetery.

Vance was born July 8, 1944, in Anson County, a son of the late John William Gulledge and Beatrice Quick Gulledge. He had 30 years of service with Anson County Government, including Water Utility Director and finally retiring as County Manager. He was a lifelong member of Lilesville Baptist Church. Vance enjoyed horses, reading books, watching his western movies and spending time with family.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Patsy Beachum Gulledge of the home; his daughter Amy (Dickie) Dawkins of Lilesville; his grandchildren, Greg (Callie) Huneycutt of Pineshurst, Nicole Dawkins of Lilesville, Rick (Katie) Dawkins of Lilesville and April (Brandon) Surratt of Ansonville; eight great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law Nancy Gulledge of Lilesville; and brother-in-law Cleveland Jordan of Wadesboro; and his aunt, Charlotte Grant of Ellerbe.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Carrie Ann Gulledge; his brother and sisters, John William "Billy" Gulledge, Betty Boling and Patsy Jordan.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [leavittfh.com](http://leavittfh.com).

## Mr. Eugene Thomas Maree

On Wednesday, March 3, 2021, Mr. Eugene Thomas Maree, 92, of Rockingham and formerly of Wadesboro, went to be with his Lord and Savior.

Services were held on Sunday, March 7, 2021, by the graveside in Anson Memorial Park in Wadesboro with Rev. Jason Lutz officiating.

Thomas was born September 19, 1928, in Anson County, and was a son of the late James Maree and the late Bessie Jane Butler Maree. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

He retired from Wade Manufacturing in Wadesboro where he first worked at age 14 sweeping the floors. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to Wade, and his career there spanned more than 50 years.

He was a member of Cartledge Creek Baptist Church.

Those left to cherish his memory are his daughter Wanda Ussery (Mike) of Rockingham; his daughter-in-law Suzie Moore of Rockingham; his grandchildren, Christina Brown (Danny) of Concord, Angie Burr and Carrie Jane Ussery, both of Rockingham and Michael Ussery of Wilmington; his great-grandchildren, David Burr (Alysa) of Rockingham, and Gracie Brown and Jacob Brown, both of Concord; his great-great-grandchildren, Nevaeh Burr and Paxton Burr, both of Rockingham; his sister and brothers, Pauline Pope and Claude Maree (Vivian), all of Wadesboro and Allen Maree of Rockingham.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Louvenia J. Maree, his son David Maree and his brother and sisters, James Maree, Magdalene Williams, Pansy Baker and Bessie Faye Gregory.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cartledge Creek Baptist Church, 152 Ben Hudson Rd., Rockingham, NC 28379 or to Richmond County Hospice Haven, 1119 N US 1 Hwy, Rockingham, NC 28170.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [leavittfh.com](http://leavittfh.com).

## George E. Matthews, Sr.

George E. Matthews, Sr. passed into heaven on March 1, 2021, surrounded by his three sons and loving wife, Louise Rivers Matthews.

A private graveside service was held at the cemetery of Mt. Croghan Methodist Church.

George was born to William Ross and Lillie Pickett Matthews on July 17, 1928, near Effingham, SC. He lived a rich, full life focused on family, experiencing new adventures, and learning the latest technology. George's career revolved around the retail business. He worked for Belk Department Stores for a number of years, including more than twenty-five years as manager of Belk's in Wadesboro. In 1973 he decided to leave his role as manager of Wadesboro Belk and took the bold step of opening his own clothing store, By George. He loved serving his customers, outfitting them in the latest "By George creation," and formed many bonds of friendship along the way. Whether it was helping a high schooler find the perfect tux for their prom or working with the groomsmen of a wedding, he wanted to make sure that the customer looked and felt their best in order to have a memorable experience. Additionally, he was the Western Union agent for Wadesboro. This allowed families, friends and businesses to send messages and money orders throughout the country in a matter of minutes before the age of email and Venmo. He was most certainly a "self-made man" who earned success in all aspects of his life through dedication, hard work, compassion, intelligence and his legendary sense of humor.

Always an enthusiastic promoter of downtown Wadesboro, he was President of the local chapter of the Civitans, and he was an active member of a group to promote the development and businesses of Downtown Wadesboro. Moreover, George was awarded the title of "Lampighter" for his attention to assuring lights on the Christmas trees were turned on when they should be.

While his children were young, their favorite vacation was water skiing at Lake Waccamaw. Pop spent countless hours in the boat with his father-in-law going 'round and 'round the lake towing the three sons behind. All the "boatsman" asked for was a lunch break before heading

back to the sons usually prevailed and pestered them into getting back onto the lake lickety split!

George will always be remembered for his huge sense of humor and never-ending teasing with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His selflessness and devotion to his family were amazing, especially to his wife of 72 years. Theirs was a relationship for the ages. They cared for each other deeply and were partners in all ways. One particularly sweet way of being partners was on their many travels, with Pop serving as pilot and Mom serving as his co-pilot and navigator. And incredibly, their love grew deeper and deeper over the many years of their marriage.

George's work ethic was remarkable and, yet, he never once complained. He took that work ethic and with equal zeal focused his energies on traveling the country with Louise in their RV. He loved taking their grandchildren on adventures, including camping at various parks. Pop would do anything for them and their families. Even when not feeling his best, he never failed to ask each "grandchild-in-law" about their work and their lives.

His faith was an important part of his life, and he served as a steward of his church and a lay speaker. His faith was epitomized by his gratitude. George knew that he was blessed each and every day and that his life was made richer through his encounters with those around him.

George was always a "techie" at heart, beginning with his service in the Signal Corps of the South Carolina National Guard. He was very active in ham radio, even having extended "QSO" conversations with fellow hams King Hussein of Jordan and Senator Barry Goldwater who was a presidential candidate at the time. Even before the internet was opened to the public, he built a Wadesboro relay node of a network that provided internet-like function nationwide by radio communication. He and Louise were also avid geocachers. He deployed an array of caches around Wadesboro and Anson County that led visiting geocachers on an effective tour of the town and surrounding communities, simultaneously perplexing and delighting those searching for his hidden treasures.

In recent years the favorite activity of George and his wife was "rambling," i.e., going on hours-long drives on country roads with no particular destination in mind. Guided only by their sense of adventure and perhaps the prettiest cloud in the sky, their journeys found rustic covered bridges, beautiful vistas overlooking the hills and valleys nearby, or perhaps the perfect picnic site beside a peaceful stream. We often teased them that GPS to them meant "God Positioning System," but we were also grateful with the invention of the "technical" GPS so they could find their way back home from their sojourn. Mom and Pop set a high-bar for embracing technology, even into their 90s!

George is survived by his wife, Louise Rivers Matthews; their three sons and their families, Rick and his wife Carolyn of Winston-Salem, their children Mark (Florence) and their children, Eleanor and James; Kelly Matthews Silliman (Shawn) and their children, Wyatt and McKinley; Michael Matthews of Richmond, VA and his daughters Molly Matthews-Ewald (Chris) and their daughter Jocelyn; and Aline Matthews of Portland, OR; Kip Matthews and his wife Kim of Athens, GA, their children Patrick and Schuyler. He was preceded in death by his parents William Ross and Lillie Pickett Matthews. He was the last surviving sibling.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Croghan United Methodist Church, c/o Dell Chapman, P.O. Box 26, Mt. Croghan, SC 29727 or to First United Methodist Church, 118 East Morgan Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Leavitt Funeral Home served the Matthews Family. Online condolences may be made at [www.leavittfh.com](http://www.leavittfh.com).

## Mr. Lawrence Stancil Ratliff, Jr.

Mr. Lawrence Stancil Ratliff, Jr., 82, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at Forestville United Methodist Church in Lilesville. Entombment will follow in Anson Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Stancil was born December 10, 1938, in Anson County and was a son of the late Lawrence Stancil Ratliff and the late Mary Saline Hinson Ratliff.

He was a graduate of Wadesboro High School and a member of Forestville United Methodist Church. He owned and operated Ratliff Trucking and Grading for 50 years.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Doris Jordan Ratliff; his sisters, Jean Williams, Vicky Howell, and Linda Ratliff, all of Wadesboro and Joanne Clark of Lilesville; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Sara and Jim Aldridge of Indian Trail, Joyce and Pete Pegram of Henderson, Vera and Glenn Trexler of Wadesboro, Kathy and Claude Canipe of Clayton, Kay Jordan of Maiden and Haywood Lee of Mint Hill; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Forestville United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Joanne Clark, 1781 Clark Mountain Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [leavittfh.com](http://leavittfh.com).

## Carri Jackson Rembisz,

On Wednesday, February 24, 2021, Carri Jackson Rembisz, 58, formerly of Lilesville, passed away peacefully at Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center in Bolivia. Her brother and son were with her.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, February 28, 2021, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with her brother, Rev. Chris Jackson, officiating.

Carri was born September 2, 1962, in Hickory, NC, and was the daughter of William Alan Jackson and the late Gloria Gilbert Jackson.

She was a 1981 graduate of Bowman High School and had worked for CMH Flooring Products in Wadesboro. She was well liked by her coworkers and the customers she assisted every day.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sons,

Douglas Rembisz of Hamlet, Daniel Rembisz of Ocean Isle Beach and Andrew Rembisz of Lilesville; two granddaughters; her father Alan Jackson of Wadesboro; her brothers, Chris Jackson (Cathy) of Lilesville and Alex Jackson of Wadesboro; her stepsister Laura Tislow; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her brother David Jackson.

## Mr. Kevin Dewayne Tucker

On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Mr. Kevin Dewayne Tucker, 49, beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend, went to be with his Lord and Savior.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Deep Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Mark Perko officiating. A private interment followed in the Tucker Family Cemetery.

Kevin was born September 18, 1971, in Stanly County, NC and was a son of Edna Pegram Tucker and the late JD Tucker. He was a 1989 graduate of Anson High School and was a veteran of the United States Army. He was employed as the plant manager for Laticrete in Hamlet.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Beverly Keziah Tucker; his children, Elizabeth Tucker of Macon, GA and Bradley White (Sarah Fryer) of Morven; his grandson Declan Lowe; a great-niece who was like a grandchild, Braxleigh Sitterly; his mother Edna Tucker of Wadesboro; his brother Jeff Harris (Wanda) of Peachland; and his nieces and nephew and their family.

Kevin was an active member of Deep Creek Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon, Co-Director of Sunday School with his wife, Sunday School Teacher and on the security team. He loved his church family and was passionate about the ministries of the church.

Kevin enjoyed hunting, playing pickleball, farming and riding jet skis. Time spent with his family and friends was among his greatest blessings.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Deep Creek Baptist Church, 3245 Deep Creek Rd., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [leavittfh.com](http://leavittfh.com).

## Deborah "Debbie" Diggs Winfree

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, Deborah "Debbie" Diggs Winfree, 67, peacefully went to be with the Lord at her home.

Services were held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, by the graveside in the Diggs Family Cemetery in Morven with Rev. Sydney Pratt officiating.

Debbie was born December 6, 1953, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late Riley Franklin "Bud" Diggs and the late Patricia Ann Gaddy Diggs. She was a 1972 graduate of Bowman High School.

She worked as a legal secretary, having worked in the law offices of Henry Wansker in Rockingham and Henry T. "Hank" Drake in Wadesboro.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sister and brother, Rhonda Diggs Little (Rob Rozee) of North Myrtle Beach, SC and James "Pete" Diggs (Polly) of Brentwood, TN; her nieces and nephews, Ashley Little Price (Ted) of Raleigh, Brian Diggs (Anna), Blake Diggs and Hayley Diggs, all of Nashville, TN; her great-nephew and great-niece, Teddy and Alexis Price; her uncles and aunts, Larry Diggs (Mona) of Polkton, Richard Gaddy of Cheraw, and Norma Gray Adams and Janet Gaddy, both of Chesterfield, SC.

Debbie lived a simple life and had a great faith. She loved being outdoors, growing and arranging flowers, animals, especially her dog Sophie, and all kinds of music and dancing. She was a great southern cook and made the best homemade biscuits and cornbread dressing.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to her neighbors and dear friends, Connie Tucker and Debbie Phillips, for all they did for Debbie and how much they loved and cared for her.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Friends of the Anson County Animal Shelter, c/o Maureen Lett, 307 Leak Ave., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at [www.leavittfh.com](http://www.leavittfh.com).

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.



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