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Mrs. Margaret Henry Burr

Mrs. Margaret Henry Burr, 84, died Friday, April 26, 2013, at Carolinas Medical Center Mercy in Charlotte.

Obituaries

Funeral services were held on Sunday, April 28, 2013, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Dr. Robert Hunter, Jr. officiating. Interment followed in Anson Memorial Park.

Margaret was born in May 19, 1928, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Julian and Rosa Diggs Henry. She was a homemaker and a member of First Baptist Church, Wadesboro.

Surviving are her husband of 60 years, Calvin Burr of the home; her daughters, Ann (Mitch) Burr of Concord and Lisa (Myron) Morton of Morven; her grandchildren, Dr. Jarrett Burr (Lindsey) of Boone, Jon Burr of Concord and Brittany Idol of Rockingham; and her great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 423, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

Rev. Ranny Garris

Rev. Ranny Garris, 85, of Peachland died Monday, April 29, 2013, at Autumn Care in Marshville.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, May 2, 2013, at 2 p.m. at Peachland Gospel Tabernacle, with burial to follow in the Peachland City Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, May 1, 2013, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morgan & Son Funeral Home.

Born January 30, 1928, in Anson County, he was a son of the late Jessie Eugene and Bessie Martin Garris.

He was also preceded in death by his wife Sybil; a son, Joseph Marshall Garris; brothers, Robert, Grover, Willie, Julian and Clyde Garris; and sisters, Carrie Benhailey, Ruth Bowers, Callie McMillian, Mary Watkins, Elgie Taylor and Pearl Garris.

Rev. Garris is survived by sons, Steve Garris (Judy) and Lynn Garris (Sheri), all of Peachland; daughters, Debra Steele and fiancée' Roger Broadaway of Burnsville and Bonita Garris and fiancée' Isaac Langley of Peachland; sister, Estelle Trull of Peachland; one grandchild, Sierra Garris of Peachland.

Family suggests memorials made to the Peachland Gospel Tabernacle, PO Box 107, Peachland, NC 28133.

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Senator Gene McLaurin Recognizes Pat Taylor

In a release from Senator Gene McLaurin: Many of you have mentioned you enjoy my occasional history lesson in my legislative report so here's one for this week. In the history of our great state of North Carolina, have you ever known of a father and son who both served as NC Lieutenant Governor? This has only happened once and a prominent Anson County family has this distinction – the Taylors.

Mr. Hoyt Pat Taylor, Sr. served as Lt. Governor from 1949-1953, following his years of service in the NC House and Senate from 1936-1945. His son, Mr. H. Pat Taylor, Jr. served in the House from 1955-1966, as Speaker of the House during the last two years, and then went on to be elected as Lieutenant Governor in 1969. Lt. Governor H. Pat Taylor, Jr., who still lives in Wadesboro with his lovely wife Lib, was honored recently when the state named Highway 52 North the H. Patrick Taylor, Jr. Highway. I regret that my legislative duties in Raleigh kept me from attending the ceremony, but I want to acknowledge the outstanding service rendered our state by the Taylor family.

Last year Lt. Governor Taylor gave me an autographed copy of his book, *Fourth Down and Goal to Go*. It is full of wisdom and brief stories about our great state and his life experiences. I treasure the book, and as Lt. Governor Taylor was being honored, I picked it up again and read several chapters. In his chapter on Change, one of my favorite quotes is as follows, "But today almost all our needs are met by pooling our resources to provide services throughout the county, the city, the state and, in some cases, throughout the nation. So we either stand together or we fall together. We can only meet our common needs by working together." Congratulations to my friend, Pat Taylor, and thanks for this good advice.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Bountiful Harvest Farm – owned by Gary and Kelly Sikes in Anson County. I really enjoyed the visit, especially since earlier that day I attended a breakfast in Raleigh with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association – a 2,700 member organization that brings awareness to organically grown produce and poultry, while encouraging people to eat local. As I sit on the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate, I hear about the struggles and concerns of farmers across our district and state. I am grateful for all they are doing to keep the wonderful tradition of family farms alive for the future.

Auto Insurance Reform: I serve on the NC Senate Insurance committee. This week we approved two changes to auto insurance laws. Senate Bill 180 allows insurance companies to offer specialty packages which should benefit our consumers. Senate Bill 181 prevents insurance companies from penalizing older, experienced drivers. Both bills had the support of Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin and are now headed to the House for their consideration.

Public Notices on Internet: Several bills have been filed in the House and Senate to allow local governments to place public notices on the internet instead of in newspapers. I serve on the Senate State and Local Government committee where we heard one bill this week. While I am in favor of helping local governments reduce their expenses, I am concerned about transparency, open government, and citizens having access to how public business is conducted. Many citizens do not use the internet and local newspapers still are the best source for local news.

As always, please feel free to email me at Gene.mclaurin@ncleg.net or send a letter to 1118 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601. Of course you can also reach me or my Legislative Assistant, Katie Stanley in my Raleigh office at 919-733-5953. If you would like to stay engaged, please visit the NC General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net.

Sheriff Allen's Tips on Contracting Home Repairs

From the desk of Sheriff Tommy Allen: As spring has arrived and the weather warms we may begin to look at projects around the house that we've either put off because of winter; or this time of the year brings us to wanting and maybe needing to do some repairs and work around the house. As a self-taught handyman I enjoy doing many of these jobs myself but I know my limitation and some things must be contracted out.

As Sheriff over the years I've seen many, many people make decisions on hiring or contracting home repairs that ends badly. Often this is when the repairs are poorly done or not completed at all; or even sometime not even begun. The money has been paid in advance, the person hired for the job is not to be found and the repair remains untouched. We see dozens of these each year.

Here are some basic rules when you decide to hire out or contract with someone to do major home repairs or projects such as adding a room or deck or porch; installing a new roof; adding hardwood flooring or siding; or major room remodeling such as kitchens or bathrooms.

First of all it's best if you can deal with a local licensed contractor. Major projects may require a building permit and inspection by the county inspection department. Certain building codes must be met or you may be required to make expensive changes or even remove or do over the project all together.

Always get a written contract with firm costs. Fully understand the scope of the project and possible other costs involved. Agree on a starting time, upfront costs and the amount held back until the project is complete and you are satisfied. Legitimate contractors will not hesitate to conform to these simple requests.

The most common problems we see in law enforcement are poorly completed projects, very poor workmanship, substandard materials used, and most often, the money paid upfront and the contractor does not complete or often even begin the project. This, of course, is fraud, and arrest and prosecutions can happen. But often the money is gone and the victim has little or nothing to show for it. This happens mostly when a "neighbor" or a "friend of a friend" is recommended for the job. It also happens when you are dealing with unknown individuals who may say they are in the area and happen to have materials from other projects and see that you "may be in need" of a new roof or deck or something. They just happen to have what you need and for a price, often way over-priced, they will do your repair or project for a real deal. They will often pressure you to make a decision right away. Their truck has no name on it and has an out of state license tag. They will want payment up front. As I've said many, many times before if it sounds too good to be true it always is!

Check out references. Never hire a contractor on the spot. You can also go to the website of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (nascla.org) and find an approved contractor.

Enjoy the spring and warmer weather. Get that spring cleaning started. If you have a major project to be done follow these suggestions and use a little common sense. If something just doesn't feel right is probably is not. Do these things and you won't have to come see me.

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Pictured Left to Right: Ronnie Blanton-NMLS #889859, Anne Rivers-Flynn-NMLS #423592, Brandis Chewning- NMLS #423590, Dana Maness- NMLS #423593.