

On Saturday, July 6, 2024, Mr. Kenneth "Kenny" Robert Hildreth, 69, passed away peacefully at Hospice Haven in Rockingham surrounded by his family.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with his first cousins, Rev. Jimmy Knotts and Rev. Tommy McKenzie, officiating. Interment followed in Olivet United Methodist Church Cemetery.

The family greeted friends on Tuesday evening, July 9, 2024, at the funeral home and other times at the home.

Kenny was born February 6, 1955, in Anson County, and was a son of the late William Baxter Hildreth and Elsie Lockler Hildreth. He was a graduate of Bowman High School.

He was a member of Olivet United Methodist Church since he was a little boy and remained an active member up until his passing. He lived in the Olivet Community his entire life and will be greatly missed.

Kenny had a love for the outdoors and was a timberman for many years. He first worked in timber with International Paper and continued working in timber and logging.

Among his greatest loves was that of baseball and children. He coached baseball for many years and often spoke of those times and the young men he had the pleasure of coaching and teaching them baseball.

Kenny really enjoyed learning about history and sharing his knowledge of history with others. He was a lifetime member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of nearly 50 years, Cecile Heaton Hildreth; his children, Melissa Horne (Michael) of Peachland and Ashley Hildreth (Danielle) of Lilesville; his grandchildren, Taylor Thompson (Tyler), McKensie Pace, Hunter Pace, Emma Horne, Katie Hildreth and Will Hildreth; his sister Sandra Tatro of Lilesville; his sister-in-law Lynn Wicker (Lindy) of Union, SC; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Olivet United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o, Martha Goodwin, 3788 Stanback Ferry Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

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- **North Carolina Coronavirus Hotline:** 866-462-3821
- **The NC DHHS COVID-19 webpage:** ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19.
- **North Carolina 2-1-1:** A one-stop connection to thousands of local agencies and resources that can help—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 211 or Text COVIDNC to 898211 for updates on COVID-19 response and resources or visit nc211.org.
- **Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Hotline:** 1-800-662-HELP
- **Hope4NC HELPLINE:** 1-855-587-3463. Call 24/7 for mental health and resilience supports during times of crisis.
- **Hope4Healers HELPLINE:** 919-226-2002. NC medical professionals, or their families, can call 24/7 for mental health and resilience supports.
- **National Child Abuse Hotline:** 1-800-4-A-CHILD
- **Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233
- **Alliance Health 24-Hour Access and Information Line:** 800-510-9132. If you or someone you care about shows signs of stress and you are becoming concerned, call the Alliance 24-hour Access and Information Center and a licensed clinician will assist you in finding the right kind of help.

NC Medicaid will Cover Oral Contraceptive Opill at Pharmacies Statewide

NC Medicaid will begin covering over-the-counter contraception in pharmacies across the state. Starting Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, the oral contraceptive Opill will be available through local and retail pharmacies without a prescription, at no cost for NC Medicaid beneficiaries. Opill is the first over-the-counter oral contraception that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"North Carolina is working to expand access to health care and that includes the freedom to make decisions about family planning," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Making birth control easier to get is an important goal and I'm glad that NC Medicaid can take this step."

"Our goal is to ensure everyone has access to the right contraception and reproductive services at the right time in their community," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "This new coverage is part of our ongoing work to invest in child and family well-being by increasing access to health care and ultimately improving maternal and infant outcomes."

Expansion of contraceptive services allows Medicaid beneficiaries better access to health care by reducing barriers to contraception medication, such as cost and the need for a prescription from their health care provider. Medicaid beneficiaries will be able to get Opill over the counter from Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies who will be able to submit the claim for reimbursement.

"We are so grateful to the pharmacies and pharmacists who are partnering with us in this critical work to expand access to contraception and reproductive health services," said State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson. "This new coverage by NC Medicaid demonstrates our commitment to continue to remove barriers to contraception and ensure North Carolinians have access to the services they need to make the best decisions about their health and life."

Opill over-the-counter coverage builds on NCDHHS' ongoing work to ensure more North Carolinians have access to reproductive health services. Prior efforts include the implementation of pharmacist-initiated contraception, through which pharmacists can provide counsel about many options for prescription contraception, initiate a prescription and dispense contraception, and connect people to ongoing care if needed. Community access to contraception is particularly important in rural areas that have fewer providers and are considered maternal health and contraceptive deserts.

North Carolina Session Law 2021-110/HB 96 grants authority to pharmacists to prescribe a variety of contraception under protocols approved by the NC Board of Pharmacy and the NC Medical Board. NC Medicaid began enrolling pharmacists as providers in January 2024. To date, there are more than 330 retail and commercial pharmacies in 92 counties providing contraceptive services.

The Department will continue to work to expand the level of access to contraceptive services in communities statewide.

More information about coverage for Opill is available in the NC Medicaid bulletin. To find a pharmacy providing pharmacy-initiated contraceptive services in North Carolina, visit ncpharmacyfinder.com.

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