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# Obituaries

hill, both of Wadesboro and Brandee Khoshnevis (Amir) of Charlotte; her great-grandchildren, Tara Sherrod, Christian Newberry, Allyson Wooten, Kassi, Brantley, Victoria, Michelle and Bryant Ray Barnhill and Royaa, Reza and Lila Khoshnevis; her brother Tootsie Raliff (Linda) of Lilesville; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother and sisters, Curtis Ratliff, Betty Jane Threadgill and Aline Robbins.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Gum Springs Baptist Church, c/o, Sarah Harrington, 1364 Hailey's Ferry Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091.

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

## Mr. Bruce Edward Johnson

Mr. Bruce Edward Johnson, 52, died Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at Atrium Health Anson in Wadesboro.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 14, 2019, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Morven Cemetery.

Bruce was born November 6, 1966, in Anson County, and was a son of Richard Lee Johnson and Susan Diggs Johnson Ratliff. He was a graduate of Anson High School,

Class of 1986, and owned and operated Bruce Johnson Body Shop.

Surviving are his children, Kyle Johnson and Kaylan Johnson, both of Wadesboro; his grandson Tidus Simmons; his mother Susan Ratliff of Wadesboro; his father and stepmother, Richard and Darlene Johnson of Raleigh; his brother Jimmy (Jennifer) Johnson of Wadesboro; his niece Maverlee Johnson of Wadesboro; and his aunts and uncles, Faye Diggs and Keith Burr, both of Cheraw, Fred and Debbie Johnson of China Grove and James T. Johnson of Loveland, OH.

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

## Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas Arter Stroud, US Army RET

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas Arter Stroud, US Army RET, died Saturday, September 14, 2019, at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Joey Byrd officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow in Morven Cemetery.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service on Wednesday and other times at the home.

Tom was born July 14, 1934, in Anson County, a son of the late Wade Hampton Stroud and the late Ruth Timmons Stroud. He was a graduate of Morven High School and enlisted in the United States Army.

He served in the Army for more than 20 years, having served during the Vietnam War. He was the recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National

Defense Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal. Following retirement from the Army, he owned and operated B and S Construction Services for more than 20 years.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Pauline Williamson Stroud; his son Thomas Wade Stroud (Dyann) of Morven; his grandsons, Wade Dewitt Stroud and Gabriel Steele Stroud, both of Morven;

his brother, John F. "Dunk" Stroud of Cheraw; his nieces and nephews and the Williamson Family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Union County-Anson, 700 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110.

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



## Mr. Donald (Donnie) Wray Helms, Sr.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, Donald (Donnie) Wray Helms Sr., 75, entered into Heaven, where he woke up to the "the prettiest flowers."

The family will attend visitation on Friday, September 20, 2019, from 6 to 8 p.m. at McEwen Funeral Home in Monroe. A celebration of his life will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 3816 Morgan Mill Road, on Saturday September 21, 2019, at 2 p.m.

Donnie was born July 8, 1944, in Monroe, NC to the late Arnold Wray Helms and Sara Stevens Helms.

He was a graduate of Sun Valley High School. He drove a truck for several different companies throughout his career, retiring in the early 90's from J.R. Price Grading after many years of service. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved his family and was a faithful servant of the Lord. Donnie was always willing to extend a helping hand or a listening ear to those in need. He made himself available to help family and friends at anytime of day. He never met a stranger.

Donnie was always willing and able to give the best advice because of his realistic view on life, and most of the time he had a witty response for every topic. He had down home common sense, and was able to tell you how to fix anything.

The last few years of his life he dealt with many health issues, but he always stayed positive, and never complained about his situation. He showed everyone what it meant to be a true fighter, and he fought as hard as possible to be present for everyone. In the minds of those who knew him best, there is no doubt that he is "walking, running and flying" in Heaven. He taught his family to take life as it comes, and most of all seek the Lord for answers to life's most difficult questions.

His laughter and his down home sayings will always be ingrained in our hearts and minds. His memory will continue to live on through the lessons he taught his children, grandchildren and friends.

Donnie was preceded in death by both parents, his sister Carol Watson, many favorite aunts and uncles, and his cousin Vic Yow, who was his best friend in his younger years, as well many other close friends.

He is survived by his loving wife and caregiver for the last few years, Kathleen Simpson Helms. They were married for 42 years and they were and still are a story of true love. He is also survived by four children, Donald W. Helms Jr. (Ronda) of Lilesville, Mike Pressley (Tammy) of Peachland, David Helms of Peachland and Kathy Bradshaw (Keith) of Monroe. He is also survived by his 11 grandchildren who he loved with all of his heart. He took the love he learned from his grandparents and created lasting relationships with his own grandchildren, Daniel Helms (Terri), Andy Pressley (Carrie), Mitchel Herring (Lindsay), Nicole Oatley (Bobby), Dusty Herring (Reaghan), Lauren Morgan (James), Wesley Helms (Taylor), Lesley Helms (Cory), Jordan Helms (Tori), Devin Helms (Madison) and Cameron Helms. He had 13 great grandchildren and one on the way. He is also survived by a brother, Ralph Helms (Dixie) of Ruby SC; cousin Sue Thomas (Eric) of Monroe; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all the medical staff at Novant Matthews and Main, staff at Duke University Hospital, Atrium Union, and Continued Care Rehab of Pineville. A special thank you to the staff at Davita Dialysis Center of Monroe.

## Celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with Statewide Events on September 28

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will host three outdoor events on Sept. 28 in support of National Hunting and Fishing Day. Each wildlife conservation-focused event, held on the coast, the piedmont and the mountains of North Carolina, will feature family-friendly outdoor activities such as fishing, archery and more.

Coastal residents can attend the Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Fishing Event at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge on Knotts Island from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For \$20, each participant will receive a rod and reel combo, bait and a Ducks Unlimited Greenwing membership. The Guilford chapter of the N.C. Bowhunters Association will be on-site offering archery education. Lunch and beverages will be provided for participants and their families. This event is limited to the first 150 participants. Pre-register by calling 252-619-0575.

Piedmont residents can attend the annual Wildlife Expo at Durham County Wildlife Club located at 3616 Hopson Rd. in Morrisville from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free hands-on activities and demonstrations include an air rifle range, fishing, archery, hunting dog demonstrations and more. Beefy Buns and Jam Ice Cream food trucks will be on-site serving snacks and lunch throughout the event. Additional partners in this year's event include the American Wildlife Refuge, Camping World, Carolina Cooker, N.C. Herpetological Society, N.C. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Triangle Fly Fishers and Wake County Wildlife Club.

The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education will host a National Hunting and Fishing Day event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1401 Fish Hatchery Road in Pisgah Forest. This free event will allow participants to enjoy outdoor activities such as fly-fishing, fly-tying, outdoor cooking, air rifle, game tracking and more. Partners and sponsors include Federation of Fly Fishers, Cross Trail Outfitters, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council, Trout Unlimited, N.C. Falconers Guild and Project Healing Waters.

For more information on National Hunting and Fishing Day, visit [www.nhfday.org](http://www.nhfday.org).

## Wildlife Commission Schedules Youth Deer Hunting Day on Saturday, September 28

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has designated Saturday, September 28, as a Youth Deer Hunting Day for 2019. On this day, youth 17 and younger may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex and are not required to be accompanied by an adult if they have completed a hunter education course. The Youth Deer Hunting Day provisions apply to both private and public lands.

Hunters age 18 and older with a valid hunting license may use only the weapon that is legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear blaze orange on Sept. 28, even if using archery equipment. The use of dogs for deer hunting is allowed on Youth Hunting Day in areas where it is lawful. During the remainder of hunting seasons, youth 17 and younger are required to use the legal weapon for the open season in the area where they are hunting.

Youth Deer Hunting Day, which coincides with National Hunting and Fishing Day, was established in 2015 to increase interest in deer hunting among youth, potentially increase their success at hunting, and highlight the need to engage youth in hunting.

Hunters can report their big game harvests either by phone at 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663), online at "Report a Harvest" ([www.ncwildlife.org/igotone](http://www.ncwildlife.org/igotone)) or at a participating Wildlife Service Agent location.

For more information on hunting in North Carolina, visit the Commission's website, [www.ncwildlife.org/hunting](http://www.ncwildlife.org/hunting). For more information on the four family-friendly events the Commission is supporting in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, visit [www.ncwildlife.org/nhfd](http://www.ncwildlife.org/nhfd).

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