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Obituaries

Mr. John Wesley Harrington, Jr.

Mr. John Wesley Harrington, Jr., 70, of Indian Land, South Carolina, died unexpectedly of natural causes on November 18, 2020, while hunting on the family farm in Peachland, North Carolina.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there will not be a public funeral. However, a Celebration of Life will be held in the future.

He was born in Richmond, Virginia on December 7, 1949, to John Wesley Harrington, Sr. and Frances Webster Harrington. After graduating from Terry Parker High School in Jacksonville, Florida, he received a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University in 1972, where he was Senior Class President and a proud member of the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta. He earned his Master's of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1975, and was ordained a deacon and an elder in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. John worked at local churches for 41 years, culminating with a 13-year appointment to Morrison United Methodist in Leesburg, FL before his retirement in 2016. While in Leesburg he sat on the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Bethune-Cookman University, in Daytona Beach, Florida, from 2000-2015, serving as Chairman of the Board from 2012-2015, and receiving an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2015.

After retirement, John and Betsy relocated to Indian Land to be closer to the family farm in Peachland. In retirement John enjoyed traveling, spending time with family and friends, and rooting for his beloved FSU Seminoles. His greatest passion was hunting and collecting and working with firearms. As a retired United Methodist Minister, he especially enjoyed having the opportunity to finally be able to worship as part of, rather than a Pastor of, a congregation at Harrison United Methodist Church in Pineville. He was a student of Civil War and firearm history, a trusted source of good advice, and an engrossing storyteller of stories both true and untrue. John was loving, generous, good-humored, and could often be found doing projects around the house or for others. He was a seasoned woodsman who took great pride and joy in teaching others how to shoot and hunt, experiencing greater happiness in others' success than his own.

John was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Betsy; his mother Frances of Peachland; sister Janice Clark of Versailles, KY; and sister and brother-in-law Gloria and Dan Overcash of Peachland; his children, step-children, and grandchildren: Amanda (Jeremy) Chauvin, and their children Abigail and Keira of Pittsburgh, PA; Kai Gurley of Washington D.C.; Alex Gurley (Travis) and their daughter Susan Ellis, and their granddaughter Roselyn Kate of Gainesville, GA; and Phil (Kelly) and their children Brewster and Oliver of Tampa, FL; and his nephew John Clark (Monica) of Versailles, KY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to The Salvation Army of Leesburg, in Memory of John Harrington, P.O. Box 491265, Leesburg, FL 34749 or to Harrison Church, 15008 Lancaster Hwy, Pineville, NC 28134.

Mrs. Mary Frances Neal Gilmore

Mrs. Mary Frances Neal Gilmore, 84, passed away peacefully at the Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center in Bolivia, NC after a brief illness on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held on Saturday, November 21st, at Cedar Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Mark Swaringen officiating. Interment was private.

Born in Anson County on April 24, 1936, Mary Frances was a daughter of the late John Clyde and Monte Thelma Liles Neal. She was a retired beautician, but enjoyed several different jobs over her career, including the selling of real estate. She also served as chairwoman of Union County's Red Cross and taught a multitude of CPR and other first-aid courses. Married to a car enthusiast and part-time racecar driver, Mary Frances became quite adept at tearing down and putting cars back together when it really wasn't cool for women to do that. She loved to go bowling and never met a craft she didn't like, including sewing, ceramics, needlepoint and knitting. Mary Frances was a longtime member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, remaining active until her health began to fail. She absolutely adored her husband Jimmy (who passed away just this past September), and the two of them were rarely ever seen apart from one another.

Survivors include her children, Mary Neal Hall (Jimmy) of Matthews, Anna Marie Farr (David) of Little River, SC, Melanie Scercy of Holden Beach, Sabrina Watts of Holden Beach, Monte Griffin of Marshville and Jim Gilmore (Amy) of Unionville; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mary Frances was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Phillip Scercy, one grandchild and two brothers, John Neal of Lilesville and Doug Neal of Morganton.

The family suggest memorials be made to Cedar Grove Baptist Church, c/o Alice Cox, 12509 Hwy 742 N., Polkton, NC 28135.

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

Mrs. Bonnie Helms Pratt

Mrs. Bonnie Helms Pratt, 66, slipped away peacefully on Friday, November 20, 2020, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

A graveside service to celebrate her life was held on Monday, November 23, 2020, in the Shiloh United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Lonnie Grose officiating.

A native of Anson County, Bonnie was born March 13, 1954, a daughter of the late W. O. "Bud" and Annie McLain Helms. She graduated from local public schools and until her retirement was employed as a school teacher at both Morven Elementary and Wadesboro Primary schools. Bonnie was a longtime and faithful member of Shiloh United Methodist Church. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Bonnie had a love for people, especially her neighbors, and she used her gift to minister to the people of the community by checking in with them on a regular basis. She will be especially missed by those who looked forward to hearing from her.

Survivors include her husband of 37 years, Sydney Pratt of the home; four children, Brandon Lisenby of Whiteville, Carol Rivers (Fredrick) of Chesterfield, Paul Pratt (Michelle) of Morven, and Amanda Stocks of Whiteville; 13 grandchildren, Amanda Pratt, Timothy Pratt, Brianna Rae Rivers, Xavier Rivers, Twankita Rivers, Maruesha Chambers, Kyle Phillips, Summer Lisenby, Autumn Lisenby, Winter Ward, Hattie Lisenby, Katelyn Pratt and Madilyn Pratt; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and one special four-legged granddog, Bubba.

Also surviving are her brothers and sisters, Elizabeth Crook of Peachland, Bobby Helms (Nancy) of Morven, Lacy Helms (Glenda) of Wagram, Burney Helms (Sandra) of Commerce, GA, Esta Prosser of Wilmington and Kaye Plyler (Gale) of Gastonia.

Memorials may be made to Shiloh United Methodist Church, c/o Sara Griggs, 778 Long Rd., Morven, NC 28119.

The arrangements are in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Free Groceries for Families in Need December 2

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missionary Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at Pleasant Hill UMC, located at 126 Church Street in McFarlan. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, baskets, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering? Email tshumpert@unccumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445.

Handwashing - Protection from COVID

Here are a few simple tips that can make a big difference in the effectiveness of washing your hands.

- 1) Wet hands
- 2) Apply soap and rub for 20 seconds
- 3) Rinse
- 4) Dry with paper towel
- 5) Use paper towel to turn off faucet



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAMA IN HEAVEN

Willard Lee Griggs

11/25/1931 ~ 8/23/2017

We know you loved playing your harmonica. We love and miss you.

From: Karen, Joel, Randy, Jennie Ryan, Hilary, Edward, Jacob and your Chihuahua Angel

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