

Obituaries

Mrs. Juanita Preslar Gaddy Tidwell

On Saturday, December 26, 2020, Mrs. Juanita Preslar Gaddy Tidwell, 80, went home to be with the Lord.

Family and friends may pay their respects on Thursday, December 31, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Leavitt Funeral Home. The services will be private, and interment will be in Griffin Cemetery in Polkton.

Juanita was born August 18, 1940, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late William Furman Preslar and the late Lucy Mae Treadaway Preslar. She had worked for a number of years with Union County Schools as a bus driver for the handicapped students and also as a Certified Nurse's Assistant.

Those left to cherish her memory are her husband Andy Tidwell; her children, Sharon Walker of Marshville, Roy Gaddy of Kannapolis and Gail Domanski of Polkton; her grandchildren, Jeffrey Davis and Shane McGuire, both of Polkton, Seth Walker of Portage, WI, Kelly Gaddy of Asheboro and Dusty Helms and Ashley Semones, both of Marshville; her great-grandchildren, Jasper and Xavier Eller; and her sisters, Carolyn Baker of Monroe and Judy Taylor of Peachland.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Gaddy, Sr.; her grandchildren, Kelly Walker and Anthony Semones, Jr. and her sisters, Maggie Carpenter, Frances Tucker and Debbie Williams.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice, 1791 E Broad Ave, Rockingham, NC 28379.

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

Mrs. Melda Thomas Trexler

On Thursday, December 24, 2020, Mrs. Melda Thomas Trexler peacefully went to be with the Lord.

The services will be private, and entombment will be in Anson Memorial Park.

Melda was born August 21, 1934, in Anson County, and was a daughter of the late Robert Lee Thomas and the late Virginia Ruth Rushing Thomas. She worked for 35 years at Hornwood in Lilesville prior to her retirement. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Dan Edwards of Nashville, NC, Ted Edwards (Jill) of Oak Island, Joy Brooks (David) of Wingate and Rodney Edwards (Angie) of Little River, SC; her grandchildren, Chad Edwards (Brandy) of Monroe, Krystle Westerberg (Eric) of Little River, SC, Dustin Edwards (Blake), Colton Edwards, Derek Brooks (Kelly) and Bethany Swann (Steve), all of Wingate, Nicole Johnson (Travis) of Marshville

and Justin Edwards (Kay) of Peachland; and her 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Eugene Trexler in 2017 and her brother and sister, Robert Lee Thomas, Jr. and Betty Ruth Austin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice, 1791 E Broad Ave, Rockingham, NC 28379.

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Lilesville Resident Ella Cheri Bennett Wins Prestigious Peace Corps Award

Lilesville resident and returned Peace Corps volunteer, Ella Cheri Bennett, is the recipient of a 2020 Franklin H. Williams Award from the Peace Corps. She received the award in a virtual ceremony held on Tuesday, December 15, hosted by Jody Olsen, the director of the Peace Corps and former Ambassador to Malta, Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley.

As a Peace Corps volunteer, Bennett collaborated with school personnel and members of her host community to establish a Parent-Teacher Association, apply for funding and subsequently plan and implement major physical repairs to their school. Following her Peace Corps service, she taught bilingual Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language to Spanish speakers from various countries for over 17 years. Bennett has a BA in Urban Studies and Community Affairs from Johnson C. Smith University and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She works North Carolina State University as a Nutrition Educator with NC Cooperative Extension-Union County Center.

More information about the Peace Corps 2020 Franklin H. Williams Awards The Peace Corps honored six returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs) and one non-RPCV with the 2020 Franklin H. Williams Awards in a virtual ceremony on Wednesday, December 16. Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, former U.S. ambassador to Malta, spoke about the importance of international service and Peace Corps Director Jody K. Olsen congratulated the awardees on their achievements.

The Franklin H. Williams Award honors RPCVs from ethnically diverse backgrounds who exemplify an ongoing commitment to community service and the Peace Corps' third goal of promoting a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The Franklin H. Williams Director's Award honors a non-RPCV for their outstanding commitment and steadfast support of peace and civic involvement and their commitment to the mission of the Peace Corps and current and returned volunteers.

"The awards spotlight the commitment of these champions of service, those who unselfishly put others before themselves," said Director Olsen "Tonight, we celebrate those whose journeys of service often began with their own service as Peace Corps Volunteers."

"I was proud to be that example of what we say we stand for: America's representatives looking like America. This starts with Peace Corps," said Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley.

The following RPCVs received the 2020 Franklin H. Williams Award, after a competitive process:

- ✓ Dr. Sheldon Gen, Petaluma, CA, Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, 1990 - 1992
- ✓ Ella Cheri Bennett, Lilesville, NC, Peace Corps volunteer in Dominican Republic, 1991 - 1993
- ✓ Dr. Sabrina Cheny, Wilmington, NC, Peace Corps volunteer in The Gambia, 2001 - 2003
- ✓ Jalina Porter, Washington, DC, Peace Corps volunteer in Cambodia, 2009 - 2011
- ✓ Diamond Butler of Brooklyn, NY, Peace Corps volunteer in Comoros, 2015 - 2017
- ✓ Denisha Richardson of St. Paul, MN, Peace Corps volunteer in Fiji, 2015 - 2017
- ✓ Dr. Helene Gayle, CEO of the Chicago Community Trust, received the 2020 Franklin H. Williams Director's Award.

"I am so honored to receive this award in the name of Franklin Williams who is an inspiration for his pioneering work in civil rights and in helping to establish the Peace Corps," said Dr. Gayle. "The Peace Corps has had a profound personal and professional impact on me and my family. There is no better way to end this unprecedented year on a high note."

About the Peace Corps: The Peace Corps sends Americans with a passion for service abroad on behalf of the United States to work with communities and create lasting change. Volunteers develop sustainable solutions to address challenges in education, health, community economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their Peace Corps experience, volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 241,000 Americans of all ages have served in 142 countries worldwide. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov and add us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

North Carolina 2-1-1 Offers Information on Your Phone and Online

What is NC 2-1-1? NC 2-1-1 is an information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina. Accessible via an easy-to-remember, three-digit number, families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services and resources within their community. Dial 211 or visit www.nc211.org.

Mr. Charles Lee Allison



Mr. Charles Lee Allison passed into heaven on Friday, December 25, 2020, after a valiant struggle with Parkinson's Disease and its complications.

Services will be private. However, Charles will lie in state at Leavitt Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for those wishing to come by and pay their respects.

He was born in Durham, NC, the oldest child of Lee Grant and Margaret Haithcock Allison, on January 25, 1950. The family moved to Peachland in December 1950 for Lee to accept a "temporary" teaching position at Peachland School. That is when the Allison family put down roots in Anson County. Charles was in the first graduating class of Bowman High School in 1968. He received a B.S. ('72) and M.Ed. ('73) from North Carolina State University, after which he and his wife Marilyn returned to Anson County. He also received his National Board Certification for teaching. Charles was a gifted, dedicated, and passionate educator and taught high school science for thirty-eight years. He spent many afternoons staying late to prepare science experiments and labs for the following day. His scientific humor in the classroom is remembered by many students that he taught.

During his teaching career, he had the privilege of teaching his three children, all later NC State graduates! They also developed interests in science-related careers. He was always happy to run into former students and colleagues. His professional legacy is remarkable.

Charles was a scientist at heart, and this fostered his curiosity about the world around him. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and never stopped learning. He developed hobbies such as bird watching, bee keeping, raising exotic pets, hunting, fishing, reading, amateur radio, astronomy, scuba diving, photography, and coaching both baseball and Science Olympiad at Anson Senior High. He was the epitome of a Renaissance man. In middle age, he was a runner, and would enjoy traveling over North Carolina to run in races. He enjoyed taking trips, cycling, and exploring many places with his children. He enjoyed understanding how things work, and was always willing to tackle repairs around the house. Granddaughter Ansley once remarked that, "Granddaddy can fix anything!"

For many years Charles honed his photography skills and photographed numerous happy couples on their wedding day. He photographed proms, bridal portraits and dance pictures. He enjoyed being a part of these special times. He was always a gracious host when the Dutton clan descended on the Allison home for holiday gatherings. His family remembers how he always walked them to their cars to see them safely on their way. If you had luggage or anything else to carry, he insisted on helping. Charles was a faithful member of Peachland Baptist Church, which he attended most of his life and where he held many positions serving the church and its congregation. He will be remembered by many for teaching the Men's #1 class and presenting the church opening every Sunday. He also served as a Deacon for many years.

Charles is survived by his wife of almost fifty years, Marilyn Louise Dutton Allison, and their children, Dr. Holly Allison Kiker, her husband Jason Kiker and their children Ansley, Harrison, Tess and Hampton of Wadesboro; Adam Lee Allison of Peachland; Dr. Jill Allison Greene, her husband Dr. Ken Greene, and their children Hattie and Margaret of Shallotte; his brothers and sisters and their families: Harvey and Sandy Allison, Edward and Kathy Allison, Arlene Allison Vinson and husband Jeff; as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his "Dutton in-laws," his wife's family members Rick and Carolyn Matthews and their children and grandchildren, and Jennie Bailey Dutton and her children. Charles was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws Myrtle and Gene Dutton, his infant daughter Leah, and his niece Hilary Carpenter. His brother-in-law Joseph Dutton passed on December 25, 2020 as well.

It is requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be sent to either: The custodial account for Desi and Kole Dutton. Donations may be sent to: Carolyn Dutton Matthews, 1857 Faculty Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106, Email: carolyn@thematthews.ws or Memory and Movement Charlotte, 300 Billingsley Road, Suite 108, Charlotte, NC 28211, mmclt.org/donate/ways-to-give.

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

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