THE EXPRESS • January 7, 2015 • Page 5 **Giving A Million Thanks**

More than 1 million new organ donor registrations since implementation of Heart Prevails Law in 2008

Donate Life North Carolina, in partnership with the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles. announced this morning that more than one million North Carolinians have been added to the NC Donor Registry since implementation of the Heart Prevails Law in 2008. As of November 30, 4,609,794 residents have said "Yes" when a DMV license examiner has asked, "Do you want to register as an organ donor?"

When you say "Yes" to donate at your local DMV office, a red heart is added to your license. This is a legally binding consent to be an organ and eye donor. Deciding to be an organ and eye donor means that you have chosen to make all of your organs available for transplant at the time of your death. Families are closely involved in the donation process, but cannot override their loved one's decision, if they are the age of 18 or older. By joining the registry, your wishes will be honored. North Carolinians may also legally register online, 24 hours a day, 7 seven days a week at DonateLifeNC.org/register.

"We are grateful for the work of DMV license examiners across North Carolina that ask every person age 16 and older if they want to register as a donor when they get their driver license or ID card," said Steve Walker, Chairman of Donate Life NC and Executive Director of the NC Lions, Inc. "Donors can save the lives of up to 8 people through organ donation and enhance the lives of up to 50 people through cornea and tissue donation, giving the gifts of sight and mobility."

Nearly 124,000 Americans are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. In 2013, 954 North Carolinians received a life-saving transplant, yet there are still 3,198 people on an active waiting list.

"Every person that registers as a donor provides hope to those waiting for the gift of life. Saying "yes" to being a donor is easy, free and heroic to those who are waiting," said Sharon Hirsch, Executive Director of Donate Life NC. "Organ donors leave an extraordinary legacy of generosity, life and hope - the kinds of gifts we particularly celebrate during the holiday season. This is true for people like Will who can breathe today, like Althea, Delores, Kaaren and countless others who are free of dialysis, for Bobby and Jim who have new hearts that are allowing them to live full lives.

"We are proud to continue our positive and growing partnership with Donate Life NC," said DMV Commissioner Kelly Thomas. "Choosing to become an organ donor is a significant decision and one that has saved countless lives. Registering one million donors is a great achievement and we look forward to signing up millions more in the future."

"We are grateful not only to DMV staff and leadership for their critical role in asking residents to register as donors, we are also thankful for NC General Assembly's passage of the Heart Prevails Law, particularly to its primary sponsor, former House Speaker Pro Tem Dale Folwell. Their leadership and vision has enabled us to register more than one million North Carolinians and save more than 5,400 lives in North Carolina through the miracle of organ transplantation," said Hirsch.

Speaking at the event, Assistant Secretary of Commerce--DES Dale Folwell said, "As a donor advocate, I am extremely pleased with the five year results of the 2008 Heart Prevails legislation . "But for" the votes of my former NC General Assembly colleagues, the DMV Examiners across North Carolina and the media we would not be celebrating a 58% increase in donations and our one millionth new organ designee. Lives are being saved and quality of life is enhanced because North Carolinians are saying yes to organ donation.

Hirsch reminds North Carolinians "that the gift of life is the greatest gift-for those who have received a transplant, but especially for those waiting, it far exceeds anything that could be found under a tree. For those spending hours on dialysis, for those carrying oxygen tanks behind them, for those who can't walk a flight of stairs because their heart is too weak, those of you who register as donors provide hope. We have two questions for those who have not yet registered: "if you needed a transplant, would you have one?" and, if so, "what are YOU waiting for?" Register your wishes today."

Donate Life North Carolina is a collaborative group of organizations that promote eye, organ and tissue donation. Working together, the member organizations are directly involved in supporting donor families and facilitating organ, eye and tissue transplants across the state. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, our work includes school education, DMV outreach and donor registry supervision. Our mission is to inspire all North Carolina residents to save and enhance lives by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors. Learn more at DonateLifeNC.org or contact Sharon Hirsch at 919-451-7893.

Obituaries ... continued from page 3

McEwen Funeral Service in Mint Hill. Interment followed in Charlotte Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Litaker was born November 12, 1927, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Thomas B. Williams and Anna Griffin Williams. She worked for a number of years with Hickory Grove Upholstery and was a member of Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Litaker was preceded in death by her husband, Herman L. Litaker, three brothone sister

Caulder.

Miss Gray was born August 15, 1930, in Anson County to the late Mossie Proctor Gray. She was a member of Salem Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her step father Enos Gray, her mother Mrs. Mossie Gray, and sister Elizabeth Proctor Turner.

For a number of years Miss Gray was affectionately cared for by the late Meloise Chavis. The family would also like to thank her current caretaker, Mrs. Mary Lanthier

He also served as a 32nd Degree Mason and was a Shriner. For most of his life he served as a counselor for the Employment Security Commission of NC.

He is survived by his son Jay Pierce of Laurel Hill; his daughters, Gail Niemeyer of Hamlet and Lori Teal of Rockingham; brother his James 'Cooter" Pierce of Laurinburg; his sisters, Betty Carlysle of Rockingham and Yvonne Huffman of Laurinburg; five grandchildren; and three greatgrandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley McGee Pierce and his brother, Jerrell W. Pierce.

Sewer Overflow Occured December 23 & 24

The Town of Wadesboro experienced a sewer overflow into Brush Creek on December 23 and 24. Approximately 4,000 gallons of sewer flowed in to the stream. The location of the overflow is Olde Towne Estates. The cause of the overflow was a possible blockage and the heavy flows from the Burns Street pump station. The Division of Water Quality in Fayetteville, NC has been notified.

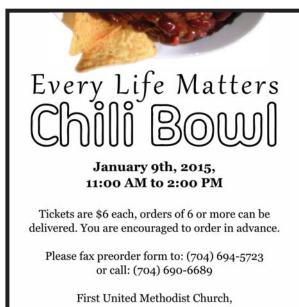
The Town of Wadesboro also experienced a sewer overflow into Lamphley Branch on December 24. Approximately 1,260 gallons spilled into the creek. The cause of the spill was heavy rain. The Divi-

sion of Water Quality has been notified of this spill. For further information

please contact Nick Griffin at 704-694-5171.

> Wadesboro **Town Hall &** Garbage Collection **Schedule for** MLK Day

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19 for the Martin Luther King Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup on that day. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 20. The regular garbage collection schedule will resume on Wednesday, January 21.



118 East Morgan Street, Wadesboro NC

OPE

704.690.6689 www.hprc-anson.org hope.prc.anson@gmail.com



She is survived by her

children, Elaine Mullis (Don), Michael Litaker (Sue), and Jenell Davis Fischer (Michael); eight grandchildren; 16 greatgrandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hickory Grove United Methodist Church, 6401 Hickory Grove Road, Charlotte, NC 28215 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Miss Gertrude Gray Musselwhite

Miss Gertrude Gray Musselwhite, 84, of Ben-nettsville, SC passed away at Scotland Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

A graveside service was held on Friday, December 12, 2014, at the Salem Baptist Church Cemetery officiated by Mr. Charles

Online condolences may be made at www.bckfh.com.

Mr. Reuben Jay "R. J." Pierce

Mr. Reuben Jay "R. J.' Pierce, 81, of Laurinburg passed away Tuesday, December 23, 2014, at his home.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 27, 2014, at the Mc-Dougald Funeral Home and Crematorium Chapel. Burial followed in Hillside Memorial Park.

Born September 18, 1933, in Anson County, Mr. Pierce was a son of the late Reuben Jay and Mary Barrett Pierce. During the Korean Conflict he served with the US Army. He was active in the VFW and was past Post Commander of American Legion Post 50. He was also active in the Sons of Confederate Veterans.



