

Obituaries

Mr. James Nathaniel "Nat" Black

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, Mr. James Nathaniel "Nat" Black, 72, passed away with this family with him. Services were held on Monday, March 15, 2021, by the graveside at Red Hill Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Rodney Clements officiating. An informal visitation was held on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at Leavitt Funeral Home. Nat was born September 10, 1948, in Anson County, and was a son of the late Nelson Black and Mary Frances Aycock Black. He was a 1966 graduate of Anson High School and was a veteran of the United States Army, having served during the Vietnam War. He owned and operated Nat Black Logging for 43 years. Nat's company will continue to operate under the leadership of highly valued longtime employees and dedicated family members. Nat would want nothing less, and we will honor him with this. He enjoyed spending time in his shop, hosting cookouts

there at the shop for his family and friends. To him, the best time was family time. Nat was a longtime committed supporter of youth athletic teams of the county and sponsored many teams through the years.

He loved being outdoors. Logging, reading, riding his tractor, vegetable gardening, watching westerns on television and being a self-proclaimed book critic were among his hobbies.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Carol Benton Black; his daughters, Stephanie (Paul) Maner and Natalie (Bryan) Threadgill, all of Ansonville; his grandchildren, all of whom he loved and was most proud of, Grant Maner, Garrett Maner, Blair Threadgill and Blake Threadgill, all of Ansonville; his sisters and brother, Judi Kimrey of Norwood, Susan Keever and Robin Shaver (Donald), all of Albemarle and David Black of Ansonville; his brothers-in-law, Johnny Mullinix of Troy, Herby Benton (Kathryn) of Ansonville and Walter Benton (Shannon) of Wadesboro; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers and sister, Bennett Black, Joe Black, Kent Black and Martha Mullinix and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Herb and Dean Benton.

Nat will be remembered as a man who was devoted to his family and his friends. He was a true family man and believed in making time for dinners and get togethers for his family. Celebrating birthdays was important to him, and he wanted his grandchildren with him when at all possible. For many years, he made sure his mother had a home in Ansonville, and even after her passing the home is referred to as "Mama Black's" and the family still gathers there for meals and fellowship. He simply loved his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Red Hill Baptist Church, Youth Department, P.O. Box 207, Ansonville, NC 28007.

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

Agatha Lee Cash

Agatha Lee Cash of Wadesboro died peacefully in her sleep Friday morning, March 12, 2021, following a short bout with kidney failure. Born March 22, 1933, Gatha passed just 10 days short of her 88th birthday.

The funeral was held at graveside, per Ms. Cash's wishes, on Sunday morning, March 14, 2021, at the cemetery across the street from Sandy Ridge Church in Morven.

Gatha was born and raised in Wadesboro where she was part of a large and wonderful farming family. She was the second youngest of 11 children.

At the age of 17 she moved to Connecticut to begin in-home family care, a job choice that would prove a lifelong passion. She spent 19 years with the Smolowe family in Westport, CT, leaving only after the youngest child, Ann, went away to college. The four Smolowe children always regarded their beloved "Aggie Baby" as their third parent and remained intimately involved in her life after she left their home. Gatha was cradling Ann in her arms when Ann drew her final breath in 2010. Jonathan, 64, the third of the four, was by Gatha's side when she died.

Gatha next spent two years with the family of Academy Award-winning actor Jason Robards in Southport, CT, traveling around the world with him, his wife and their two young children. While she loved the family deeply, she wasn't fond of the travel. Settling in Norwalk, CT, she went to work for a manufacturing company. But, after a few years she found that she missed caring for families too much.

Her next stop was the Freeman family in Trumbull, CT, where she cared for Daniel, a beautiful and energetic autistic baby. She stayed with the Freemans for 20 years before retiring and returning to Wadesboro. During those two decades, says Danny's mother Marge, "Gatha was my confidant, my counselor. Sometimes like a mother, sometimes like a sister, she encouraged and inspired me, chastised me, calmed me down and spurred me on. She was a fierce supporter and advocate for Daniel from the time he was 3 months old until a week before her death, when he was 33."

Danny reciprocated Gatha's love, following her directions far more than anyone else's, and turning to her when he felt powerless. As his third parent, Gatha believed that given love, guidance and opportunity, Danny would be able to gain the life skills necessary to care for himself. She fiercely advocated for every intervention that she felt would help him mature and pushed back hard against anyone or anything that she thought would sideline him. She continually told him and others that he was very smart, and she was right. Danny, who holds a job and lives semi-independently, has proven to be an inventive problem solver and empathetic young man.

Gatha was predeceased by her parents, Robert and Glinnie Cash; her brothers, Clyde, Bradley, Wilson and Eddie Cash; her sisters, Ceilie Cash, Sally Cole, Lottie Rollins, Hurley Campbell, Julia Smith, Betty Cash and Ida F. Pratt; and her chosen daughter Ann Smolowe.

She is survived by her sister Patricia Gaddy, her brother Robert T. Cash, and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family, both blood-related and chosen.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Gatha's name to the organization that provided her with amazing hospice care in her final days. Checks can be made out to: Community Home Care & Hospice, 1791 E. Broad Avenue, Rockingham, NC 28379. Alternately, the organization can be reached at 910-895-2871.

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

Mrs. Louise Curlee Litaker

Mrs. Louise Curlee Litaker, 93 of Charlotte, and formerly of Greenville, SC peacefully went to be with the Lord March 4, 2021, at Sharon Towers in Charlotte.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at Carolina Memorial Park in Concord, NC with Rev. Caroline East officiating. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the family did not hold a public visitation. The service was shared via Facebook Live on Leavitt Funeral Home's Facebook page.

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Born April 13, 1927, in Polkton, Louise was a daughter of the late Edd and Corrie Hill Curlee. She graduated from Polkton High School, and then from the School of Cosmetology in Charlotte, and trained at the UNC School of Dentistry in Chapel Hill as a Dental X-Ray Technician. She married Rae Marlin Litaker in 1954 and was a devoted wife to Rae until his death in 2015.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Nancy Litaker Felker as well as numerous nieces and nephews in the Curlee and Litaker families.

Louise was a cosmetologist from 1947-1953. In 1953 she began her career as a Dental X-ray Technician, and eventually became an instructor in dental radiology at Greenville Tech.

She was president of Beta Sigma Phi - Beta Zeta Chapter; President, Women of the Church, Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC.; LifeWise Advisory Board Member, St. Francis Hospital; Patewood Memorial Hospital volunteer and Advisory board member. At the time of their move from Greenville, they were members of St. Giles Presbyterian church.

Among her professional accomplishments, she was commended by the Review Committee for Accreditation of Dental Assistant and Dental Hygiene Program at Greenville Tech in 1970 for her development of a measurement technique which minimized elongation and fore shortening of radiographic exposures. In addition, she experimented with and developed a mechanism for the processing of emergency x-ray films within the operator with a minimum of equipment. This procedure was submitted to Eastman Kodak Company for consideration and adaptation.

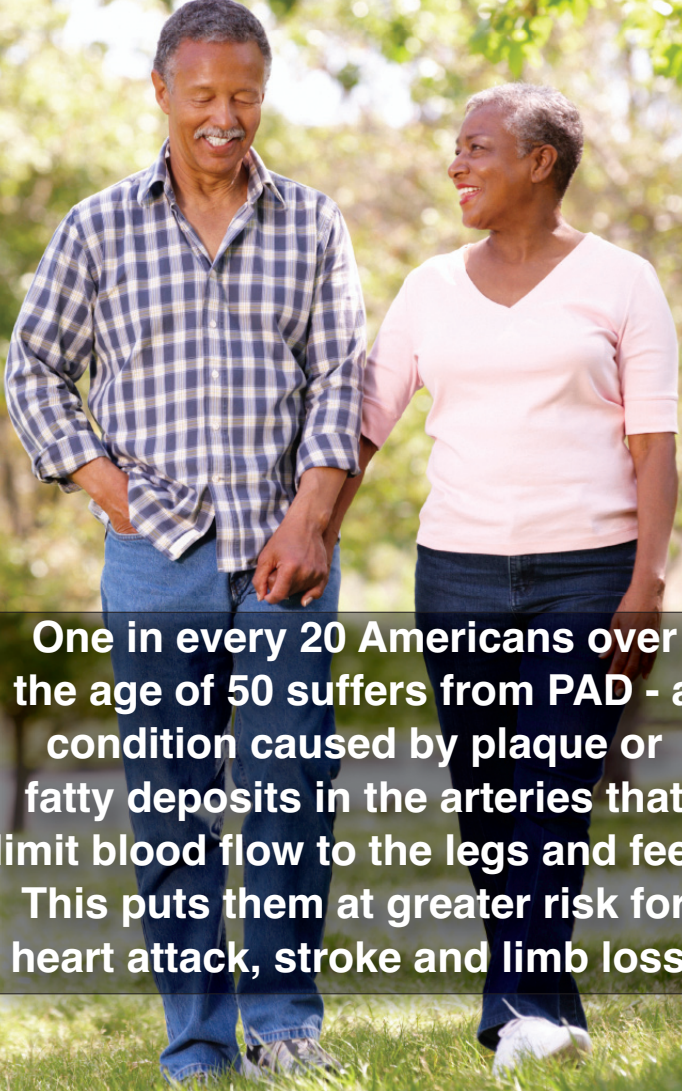
Louise was extraordinarily creative. She was an accomplished artist in oils and watercolors as well as an excellent seamstress and a master at crochet. Her creativity inspired her to create a visual Bible Timeline that she named *Discovering the Bible through World Powers*, which she enjoyed giving away. Also an accomplished user of her personal computer, she created card catalogs for church libraries and personal greeting cards, many of which used her own artwork which she scanned into her computer. At Sharon Towers she saw a way to raise money for the Residents Assistance Fund by making these greeting cards to sell.

The family is especially grateful to the staff at Sharon Towers and Hospice. During this pandemic, you were our extended family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Residents' Assistance Fund at Sharon Towers, 5100 Sharon Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210; Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region, 1420 East Seventh St, Charlotte NC. 28204; or Peachland Baptist Church, P O Box 146, Peachland, NC 28133.

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