

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Heather Mitchell Benton of Lilesville, Shaun Mitchell (Megan) of Monroe and Joey Lear (Ilisha) of Wadesboro; her former husband but still dear friend, Robbie Mitchell of Monroe; her grandchildren, Cameron Benton, Bryson Benton, Gabe Lear and E.J. Lear, all of Wadesboro, Zeb Mitchell and Malice Mitchell, both of Monroe, Kanyla Mitchell of Concord and Brianna Lear of New Mexico; her

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Mrs. Elizabeth Bane "Libby" Cameron

Mrs. Elizabeth Bane "Libby" Cameron, 73, died Tuesday, August 31, 2021, while a patient at Duke Raleigh Hospital in Raleigh.

Due to a resurgence of Covid-19, Libby's family has decided it would be safest to temporarily delay her service. They do plan to hold a public memorial service in the future, and will announce the date and time as appropriate.

Born August 10, 1948, in Marion, SC, Libby was

a daughter of the late Chuck and Margaret Stewart Bane. As a Department of Transportation employee, Libby's father was transferred quite a bit while she was growing up. She liked to tell that she attended 12 different schools until graduating from Anson High School in 1966.

Until her retirement, Libby was probably best known as the longtime clerk for the Town of Polkton. If you needed help or directions on how to get something done inside the Polkton city limits, Libby was your BEST source of information! She enjoyed her job but found out later that she enjoyed retirement more. She loved reading, cats, and British murder mysteries...not necessarily in that order. More recently, Libby's absolute favorite role in life was being "Nans" to the "most precious granddaughter in the world."

Survivors include her two daughters, Fran Cameron and Joanne Cameron of Raleigh; her granddaughter Amy Frances Cameron; her brother LCDR Chuck H. Bane, Jr., USN (Retired) and his wife Pam; two nephews, Ryan Bane (Melody) and Nick Bane; a niece, Carrie C. Stroud (Chris); a brother-in-law, Jimmy Cameron (Cheryl); two great nephews; and one great niece.

In addition to her parents, Libby was preceded in death by her daughter Amy Fisher in 2008.

The family suggest memorials be made to the Anson County Animal Shelter, c/o Maureen Lett, 307 Leak Avenue, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

Mr. Kenneth Lee "Kenny" Knight

Mr. Kenneth Lee "Kenny" Knight, 73, passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at his home in Polkton.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at Harmony Community Church with Rev. Rocky Carpenter officiating. The family greeted friends in the fellowship hall of the church prior to the service.

Born in Bridgeton, New Jersey on April 13, 1948, Kenny was the oldest of five children born to William Thomas and Catherine Neal Knight. He graduated high school in New Jersey and joined the US Army, becoming a sniper and expert marksman before being sent to Vietnam where he saw intensive combat action. Following his honorable discharge from the service, Kenny managed to find his way to Anson County landing a job working for the Town of Wadesboro. A talented auto mechanic, he opened his own repair shop in 1986, Knight's Automotive and Wrecker Service. Kenny operated the shop until his retirement in 2008 when he turned over operations to his son.

Kenny appreciated all things having to do with cars. He loved talking "shop" with other mechanics, car shows, and racing. For a few years, he drove his own race car, #86, mostly at the old Concord Speedway. He was a good family man who loved his children and absolutely adored his grandchildren. Some people thought him peculiar but that might have had more to do with him being born a Yankee than Southerner. When Kenny first came to the south, he was not crazy about animals. Following the purchase of a chihuahua puppy, Kenny didn't speak to anyone in the family for a couple of weeks. But, after years of gentle experience and love from various family pets, he became quite the animal lover and adopter of strays.

Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Robin Walters Knight of the home; two children, Diane Knight of Gold Hill and William Knight (Melanie) of Polkton; seven grandchildren, Lauryn Lee Hasenmayer, Jay Hasenmayer, Phillip Hasenmayer, Catherine Hasenmayer, Easton Knight, Kaiden Knight and Cohen Knight; four brothers and a sister, Parker "Parkey" Knight, Warren Knight, Tommy "Jr." Knight and Printha Lynn Sees, all of New Jersey.

The family request memorials be made to the Anson County Animal Shelter, c/o Maureen Lett, 307 Leak Avenue, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Leavitt Funeral Home served the Knight family. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

On Thursday, September 16, 2021, Teresa Diggs Lear, beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend went to be with the Lord following a courageous yet brief battle with declining health. Her family, although heartbroken, finds comfort in knowing she is at peace.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Jimmy Knotts officiating. Interment followed in Eastview Cemetery.

The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the funeral home



Dr. Jo Watts Williams, 1929 - 2021

Dr. Jo Watts Williams, 92, who spent more than 75 years dedicated to building Elon University and contributing to the quality of life in Alamance County, died Thursday, September 16, 2021, at her home in Burlington, North Carolina.

A funeral service was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at First Presbyterian Church in Burlington. Following the service, the family received friends at The Inn at Elon in Elon, N.C. A private committal service for the family was held at Magnolia Cemetery in Elon.

Dr. Williams was born on May 26, 1929, in the White Store community of Anson County, N.C., the youngest of eight children of James C. Watts and Blanche Rogers Watts. Neither of her parents had attended college, but they were committed to the importance of education. They raised money to hire a teacher for the town's school and ensured that all of their children attended college.

Following her graduation from Deep Creek (N.C.) High School, Williams followed the path of all of her siblings, enrolling in Elon College in 1945. During her college years she met fellow Elon student William Leaford Williams Jr., and the two were married on June 13, 1948. She combined her studies with work, serving as secretary to President Leon Edgar Smith for four years. She completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education and graduated from Elon in 1955.

Following college, Williams spent 14 years as a public school teacher in North Carolina, working in Alamance County Schools, Concord City Schools and Burlington City Schools. She was a Teaching Fellow and earned her master's degree in education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1971 and a doctorate at UNCG in 1973.

In 1969 President J. Earl Danieley recruited Williams to accept a position on the Elon College faculty in the Department of Psychology and Education. She advanced from instructor to the rank of professor, and in 1977 was named associate dean of academic affairs and director of the Learning Resources Center. Two years later, President J. Fred Young appointed Williams director of development and soon promoted her to be Elon's first vice president for development. She served in that role for 16 years, providing administrative leadership, strong trustee and donor stewardship and crucial fundraising success that fueled the institution's growth. She led four major Elon fundraising campaigns and secured the first \$1 million gift for the college. She also initiated the college's planned giving program and oversaw major gifts, annual giving, alumni and parent relations, church relations, foundation and corporate relations and the publications and public information office. The Elon endowment grew from about \$3 million in the 1970s to more than \$23 million in 1995.

Williams was named special assistant to President Young in 1995, representing Elon in the Alamance-Burlington community and continuing her personal relationships with many donors and friends. In 2010 President Leo M. Lambert named Williams vice president emerita and she continued to be active in the life of the university and nurtured philanthropic relationships between generous families and Elon.

Williams said her life had three priorities: her family, her university and her community. Williams was named Elon University's Distinguished Alumna of the Year in 1995, was awarded the Elon Medallion for outstanding service to Elon in 1998 and received the Frank S. Holt Business Leadership Award in 2008. In 2013, the university named a residence hall in The Oaks neighborhood on campus in her honor, and her portrait hangs in a conference room that bears her name in the president's office suite in Powell Building.

Williams was a generous and consistent donor to Elon through more than five decades, supporting scholarships, academic programs, athletics and building projects. She was a member of the Elon Society, Phoenix Club and the Order of the Oak planned giving society, and she and her husband created the William L. and Jo Watts Williams Scholarship.

In July 2021, Elon University's Board of Trustees approved the naming of the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education to honor her lifetime of service. The naming was in recognition of a \$10 million gift to Elon by the Williams family – sons William (Lee) Williams III and his wife, Beth, through the Beth and Lee Williams Foundation, and Dr. Randall Williams and his wife, Elizabeth. This is the largest endowment gift in Elon's history and is designated to support students, faculty, administration and the university's community partnerships.

Williams leaves a legacy of leadership in Alamance County, serving as one of the driving forces in the complex merger of Memorial Hospital and Alamance County Hospital and the construction of Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC), which opened in 1996. She served on the Memorial Hospital Board and continued on the ARMC board. She was also instrumental in the construction on the former Memorial Hospital property of Alamance Extended Care, which includes the Village at Brookwood retirement community and Edgewood Place. Williams served as a board member for the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., United Way, The Alamance Foundation, Alamance-Caswell Hospice, Alamance County Habitat for Humanity, the Alamance County chapter of the North Carolina Symphony, Salvation Army and Burlington Boys and Girls Club. She was also a trustee and ruling elder in First Presbyterian Church and was named Woman of the Year by the Burlington Civitan Club in 1982. In 2014 she was recognized by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory with the state's Order of the Long Leaf Pine award.

Williams is survived by her sons William Leaford (Lee) Williams III (Beth), of Wilmington, North Carolina; and Dr. Randall Watts Williams (Elizabeth), of Raleigh, North Carolina. She is also survived by four grandchildren: Margaret Elizabeth (Betsy) McDonald and Angus McDonald, William Leaford (Ford) Williams IV (Anne), Watson Randall (Watt) Williams (Alyssa), and Timmons Elizabeth Williams; along with six great-grandchildren: Catherine Ellen (Catchie) McDonald, Margaret Elizabeth (Mae) McDonald, Lewis Sprunt (Lew) Williams, Harrison Leaford Williams, Sallie Labouisse Williams and Cardiff Reid Williams.

She was predeceased by her parents, James and Blanche Watts; her husband, William Leaford Williams; one grandchild, Steele Carrington Williams; and seven siblings: Sue Watts Colclough, J. Eugene Watts, J. Cecil Watts, Daniel T. Watts, Hal H. Watts, Blanchard K. Watts and C. Edwin Watts.

Memorials may be made to the William L. and Jo Watts Williams Scholarship, 2600 Campus Box, Elon University, Elon, NC 27244; or to First Presbyterian Church, 508 West Davis St., Burlington, NC 27215.

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