

On Monday, October 4, 2021, Mr. Erskine Yates Almond, 79, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully at his home.

Funeral services were held on Monday, October 11, 2021, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home. Interment followed in Anson Memorial Park.

The family greeted friends during an informal visitation one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Erskine was born May 5, 1942, in Anson County, and was a son of the late Charles "Charlie" Franklin Almond and the late Annie Jane Pegram Almond.

He was a graduate of Wadesboro High School and a well-known mechanic in Anson County. His career included employment with Register Motor Company, Huntley Buick, Paul and Barber Garage and finally, Almond's Garage, which he owned and operated for nearly 40 years. At the time of his passing many of his clients were still calling on him for assistance with their automobiles.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 57 years, Judy McQuay Almond; his children, Yates, Wendy and Melinda; his grandsons; his brother and sisters, Charles (Sybil), Peggy and Louise (Larry); his

sister-in-law, Peggy and his nieces and nephews and their families.

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 and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Mr. Thomas William Rice, Jr.

Mr. Thomas William Rice, Jr., 61, of Polkton and formerly of Morven, passed away peacefully Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at his home.

Services were held on Saturday, October 9, 2021, by the graveside at Shiloh United Methodist Church Cemetery in Morven. The family greeted friends following the service.

Tom was born September 24, 1960, in Mecklenburg County, NC and was a son of the late Thomas William Rice and the late Katie Martin Rice. He was formerly employed with Southern Fabricators in Polkton.

He lived a simple life. He loved old country music and living a farming lifestyle. While he enjoyed planting a garden, he did not necessarily like "working" it, but he did enjoy a good homegrown tomato.

Tom always talked about wanting to be an auctioneer and had the chance to be one once and sold a man a hog! He was a hard worker and somewhat of a workaholic before he began to have issues with his health.

In his older years he became quite a good cook, mastering his grandma's

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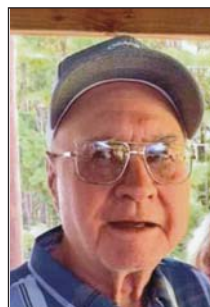
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making stews.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his sisters and brother, Katrina Martin (Scott Clontz) of Peachland, Barbara Allen (Paul) of Kannapolis, Sherry Walton (Jimmy) of Norwood, Ann Medlin (Gary) of Jefferson, SC and David Rice (Karin) of Lilesville; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In lieu of flowers, 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 and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.



Mr. Walton Eugene McRae, Sr.

Mr. Walton Eugene McRae, Sr., 86, of Haughton, LA passed away August 31, 2021, in Bossier City, of Congestive Heart Failure.

It was Mac's wishes for his ashes to be buried Wadesboro alongside his brothers and with his mother.

Family and friends will gather for a graveside service at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

There was a memorial service for Mac held on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at Hill Crest Memorial in Haughton, LA.

Early on Mac served in both the Navy and the Air Force. He was a Mason for sixty plus years and the past Master of the Hap Arnold Lodge; a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Freemason; and a Shriner. Mac was a Barber at BAFB NCO Club and on the Bossier Base for years. Later Mac formed his own business named VMAC. He finished his working career at Shreveport Parks and Recreation, retiring in 2000.

Mr. McRae was preceded in death by his brothers, Robert McRae, Preston McRae and Franklin McRae; sister Susan Edminston; and stepdaughters, Janet Prestridge and Patricia Santiago.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, as well as best friend for many more, Virginia Creech Johnston McRae; sons, Walton E. McRae, Jr., James Patrick McRae, and John Thomas McRae; stepdaughters, Donna Johnston, and Kathy "Poppy" Johnston; grandson Josh McRae; and two great grandchildren; sisters, Lois Hall, Mildred Hudson and Carolyn Downer; the mother of his sons, Mable McRae Lewis; along with many good friends and extended family.

The family expresses their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Anil Chhabra, Brandy Ramin, NP, and the entire staff of the Device Clinic at Pierremont Cardiology for the compassionate care all these years. They would also like to express gratitude to two special people who helped Mac during his declining health: Karla Sanders and Thomas Still. Thank you all!

He will be missed by a great many people.

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

Looking for a Job? Be Careful!

Job scams increased during the pandemic, BBB study finds

Employment scams are on the rise in the turbulent job market created by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new Better Business Bureau (BBB) study finds. BBB warns job seekers to verify employment offers to avoid illegal jobs, identity theft and fake checks to which millions are exposed annually.

The in-depth investigative study – *Job Scams: BBB study finds job scams increased during pandemic, warns job seekers to verify employment offers to avoid illegal jobs, identity theft and fake checks* – details the many forms employment fraud takes and the scams that often result. Read the full study at bbb.org.

Job scams have been a problem for years. In 2020, BBB estimated 14 million victims with \$2 billion in direct losses related to job scams. Last year, the 2020 BBB Employment Scams Report by BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust found job scams to be the riskiest of all the scams they tracked in 2018 and 2019. However, BBB's study finds that the problem worsened in 2020. Losses reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) about employment scams were up 27% between 2018 and 2020.

BBB Institute's 2020 report on job scams found that this fraud most commonly victimized people ages 25-34, with women filing 67% of complaints about this fraud. The median financial loss reported by these victims was \$1,000; in addition, they often reported loss of their time, as 32% were never paid for the work they did for an "employer" that turned out to be fraudulent.

Identity theft is a common outcome of job scams, as scammers often steal job seekers' personal information to open bank accounts to further their fraud. BBB found 34% of victims provided their driver's license number and 25% provided their Social Security or Social Insurance number.

Fake checks also frequently accompany job scams, and they continue to grow. This new BBB study finds that 36% of job scam complaints to BBB involved a fake check, with fake check complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) increasing by 65% between 2015 and 2020. In the two years since BBB issued an investigative study on fake check fraud, losses absorbed by banks themselves due to fake checks went up 40% to reach \$1.3 billion. Common fraudulent job offers involving fake checks include mystery shopping or secret shopper jobs, car wrap jobs, nanny or caregiver jobs, and small business jobs such as photography or painting houses.

Employment scam victims frequently become unwitting accomplices in other fraud, used as money mules, to mail fake checks, or to participate in reshipping scams, which represent 65% of the scam job offers reported to BBB Scam Tracker (bbb.org/scamtracker). Scammers "hire" victims from job boards, Facebook or Craigslist, offering to pay them as much as \$2,500 to receive and then send on packages. These fraudsters often use stolen credit card numbers to order laptops, cellphones and high-end goods and have them sent to reshipping victims, instructing them to repackage the goods and providing shipping labels to send the packages to a new address, often in Russia. The accomplices who were hired for this fraudulent type of work are never paid, and their identities may be used to open bank accounts.

The FTC has taken action against job scammers, including a fake job placement company the agency sued in 2019. Associated scams such as reshipping schemes and money mule schemes have been a focus for state and federal law enforcement; in December 2020, the Department of Justice announced the results of a worldwide effort to deal with money mules, resulting in action taken against 2,300 people.

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