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Mrs. Margaret Annie Thomas Henry

Margaret Annie Thomas Henry, a native of Morven who had been living at the Aldersgate retirement community in Charlotte since 2006, passed into Eternal Life, Saturday, February 7, 2015, at age 99.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at Monroe First Presbyterian Church, 302 East Windsor Street in Monroe. The family will receive friends from 10 until 10:45 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Interment will follow in Morven Cemetery.

Mrs. Henry was the second youngest of the nine children of Charles and Annie Gullede Thomas. All her siblings predeceased her. Her husband, William Rowe Henry, whom she married in 1943, died in 1981.

Obituaries

She is survived by daughter Annie Henry of Monroe; son William Rowe Henry, Jr. (Boonie) of Leesburg, VA; grandson Clark Adams Henry, also of Leesburg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Henry had lived in Fairmont and Canton, where Mr. Henry was superintendent of schools, before returning to Morven in 1965. She has been a member of Morven Baptist Church, Canton United Methodist Church, Morven United Methodist Church and Monroe First Presbyterian Church. She received the honor of Lifetime Member of United Methodist Women. Her church activities included playing piano and organ. She started children's choirs in churches both in Canton and Morven, and until her recent illness played piano at Sunday School and at the "Gathering" that begins worship at Monroe First Presbyterian. She also played piano as part of Aldersgate's group activities, using the piano that had been in her family since she was a small child.

In addition to her church activities, Mrs. Henry served as a volunteer in Gray Ladies, distributing mail and flowers to patients in Waynesville Hospital; and as a volunteer for Red Cross blood drives.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made either to Morven Cemetery Association, Box 373, Morven

NC 28119 or to Monroe First Presbyterian Church, 302 E. Windsor St., Monroe NC 28112.

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

Miss Mary Catherine Morgan

Miss Morgan, 94, died Saturday, February 7, 2015, after years of declining health.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, in the Morgan Family Plot in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will greet friends 1 hour prior to the service in Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Miss Morgan was born in Anson County, the daughter of the late C. B. and Addie Elam Morgan. She graduated from Peachland High School and attended Wingate College. She retired from Southern Bell, now AT&T, and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Miss Morgan was a life long member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in the White Store Community. When in Charlotte she attended Myers Park United Methodist Church.

She was a member of the Mecklenburg Historical Association and was a docent at Rosedale and Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. She was a member of the Mint Museum.

She is survived by nephew Sam Hudson of Raleigh; niece Berry H. Quickel (Greg) of Statesville; great nephew Stephen Hudson, and great niece Emily Hudson of New York City.

Online condolences may be made at morganandsonfuneralhome.com.

Mr. John B. "Johnny" Usrey

Mr. John B. "Johnny" Usrey, 72, died Thursday, February 5, 2015, at his home.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 7, 2015, at Gum Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Steve Hill, Rev. Tom Walden and Rev. Clay Johnson officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Johnny was born March 13, 1942, in Anson County, a son of the late Jesse Lee and Verna Murray Usrey. He was retired from Alltel Communications, now Windstream, as a Field Engineer and was a member of Gum Springs Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Linda Sellers Usrey of the home; his son Johnny Lee (Susan) Usrey of Lilesville; his grandchildren, Jordan Maness (Mike) of Polkton, and Bryan Usrey and Jesse Usrey, both of Lilesville; his great grandson, Jon Michael Maness; his sister and brother-in-law, Vickey and Robert Clark of Lilesville; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Judy

and Don Horne of Peachland and Frances and Jabie Burroughs of Lilesville and Jim Sellers of Robbins; and his nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey Dean Usrey and his sisters, Dorothy Ratliff, Ruby Coble, Polly Mabe and Frances Tarlton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gum Springs Baptist Church, c/o Sarah Harrington, 1364 Hailey's Ferry Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091 or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

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Powerade State Games of North Carolina Venues Announced

Registration is open for most sports at www.ncsports.org

North Carolina's largest multi-sport, amateur athletic sporting event is returning to the Triangle after eight years. The Powerade State Games of North Carolina will host events in Raleigh, Cary and Durham from May 30-June 28, 2015. Over 14,000 athletes will have a chance to "go for the gold" in world class venues throughout the Triangle Region, including USA Baseball Complex, North Carolina State University, Duke University, North Carolina Central University, WRAL Soccer Center, Raleigh Convention Center, WakeMed Soccer Park, Walnut Creek Softball Complex and many other area schools, parks and recreation facilities. For a complete list of venues and dates, please visit www.poweradestategames.org.

Registration is now open for the Powerade State Games of North Carolina. Pickleball is a new addition in 2015. Table tennis, tennis and volleyball will be re-added for the 29th edition of the Powerade State Games. The remaining sports include: baseball, basketball, bmx, disc golf, fencing, figure skating, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, karate, lacrosse, rugby, shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, taekwondo, track & field, ultimate and wrestling. Athletes can visit www.poweradestategames.org to register for each event.

The 2015 Opening Ceremonies will be held June 19 at City Plaza in downtown Raleigh. The Opening Ceremonies features a commemorative gift for participating athletes, games, music, the parade of athletes and a lighting of the cauldron to announce the official start to the 2015 Powerade State Games of North Carolina.

The 2015 Powerade State Games of North Carolina corporate partners include: Powerade, BB&T, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC, Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance, Visit Raleigh, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, Visit NC, Capitol Broadcasting Company, Bojangle's, Systel and York Properties. It is not too late to be part of this year's Powerade State Games; to become a sponsor contact North Carolina Amateur Sports at 919-361-1133 ext. 233.

North Carolina Amateur Sports (NCAS) is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that annually hosts the Powerade State Games of North Carolina and Cycle North Carolina. NCAS is dedicated to the promotion of health, physical fitness and the Olympic Movement in North Carolina. For more information on NCAS and its events, please visit www.ncsports.org.

SBA Office of Advocacy Releases North Carolina Small Business Profile

North Carolina is home to 833,107 small businesses

Today, the Office of Advocacy, an independent office within the Small Business Administration, released a report entitled Small Business Profiles for the States and Territories, an annual analysis of each state's small business activities. The profile includes information on the number of firms, employment, demographics and other topics using the most recently available government data.

"Every year the Office of Advocacy strives to produce a small business snapshot for North Carolina's entrepreneurs and policymakers," said Christine Kymn, Chief Economist and Director of Economic Research. "We believe today's report illustrates the importance of North Carolina's small businesses and the vital role they play in North Carolina's economy."

- Some highlights of the profile include:
- North Carolina is home to 833,107 small businesses,
 - North Carolina's small businesses employ 1.6 million individuals.
 - The three industries with the most small business employment include: health care and social assistance; accommodation and food services; and manufacturing
 - Small businesses made up 87.3 percent of the North Carolina's exporting companies generating 23.4 percent of the state's total known export value.

For a detailed report by state, please check out the report at www.sba.gov on the Office of Advocacy website.

The Small Business State and Territory Profiles report on the economic status of small business from 2007 to 2014. The profiles are a reference tool for researchers, policymakers, and small entities who are interested in how small firms are performing regionally or nationally. Note that this report generally defines small businesses as firms with fewer than 500 employees.

ACCESS Information Session

ACCESS will hold an information session at 114 East Wade Street in Wadesboro on Friday, February 13 at 11 a.m. For more information call 866-472-2212.

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