

Brookie Drake Craft, 93, passed away, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at Brookdale Union Park Assisted Living in Monroe.

A funeral service to celebrate Brookie's life was held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at Calvary Episcopal Church with Father Craig Dolack officiating. Interment followed in Eastview Cemetery.

Brookie was born in Wadesboro on November 29, 1930, and was the only child of the late Brooks Drake Craft Harrall and the late Hatcher McGee Craft.

She attended Miss Harriet Rose's kindergarten in Wadesboro and began her formal education in the Wadesboro School System. She completed her high school years at Stuart Hall in Staunton, VA, and following graduation there she attended and graduated from St. Mary's Junior College in Raleigh, NC. Brookie then furthered her education at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL where she was inducted into the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. In completing her education, she was given a two-month summer in Europe, which she found awe-inspiring.

Upon her return to Wadesboro she volunteered throughout the community and worked with the Anson County Health Department. She later moved to New York where she enjoyed working at SITA World Travel Agency and Tiffany and Company.

Following her time spent in New York Brookie returned home to Wadesboro where she managed the Ansonia Theatre, built by her grandfather L. L. Drake in 1925. Her mother worked with her, managing the ticket booth. Today the theatre is owned by the Anson County Arts Council and serves as an exceptional performing arts center, and is still known as the Ansonia Theatre. In 2017, the Arts Council honored Brookie and her family by naming the gallery there the Drake Gallery. This was a special time in Brookie's life as the contributions her family made to the arts in Anson County was recognized in a kind and generous way. She was honored to cut the ribbon at the grand opening.

Brookie enjoyed traveling the world, seeing all of its wonders, meeting new people, and experiencing different cultures, but always came home to Wadesboro. She loved the closeness and charm a small Southern town offers and the lifelong friendships, some as far back as preschool.

She was a member of Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro and served on the Altar Guild. She was also a member of the Anson County Arts Council, the Anson County Historical Society and the Wadesboro Garden Club.

Surviving are her cousins, Lib Moore Jones of Durham, NC, Jean Hightower Gardener (Ted) of Morven and James Pinkston of Paw Creek, NC and their families.

There is much gratitude to the staff and residents of Brookdale Union Park Assisted Living in Monroe for all the care, concern, and companionship she experienced while a resident there. She also had relationships with many friends in Wadesboro who meant a great deal to her, and those friends were like family to her, for which she was grateful. Her Brookdale family and friends saw her through her final days until she slipped away peacefully.

In lieu of flowers, Brooke would be honored and grateful if you would consider a memorial gift to one of the following: Calvary Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 942, Wadesboro, NC 28170, or the Anson County Arts Council, Ansonia Theatre Fund, P.O. Box 332, Wadesboro, NC 28170 or the Anson County Historical Society, 206 E. Wade St., Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

Mrs. Doris Conley Smith

On Monday, July 1, 2024, Mrs. Doris Conley Smith, 96, passed away peacefully at Atrium Health Anson in Wadesboro.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2024, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Anita Thompson and Dr. Fred Senter officiating.

The family will greet friends one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

The graveside service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at Forest Hill Cemetery in Morganton, NC.

Doris, or "Dee" as she was affectionately called by her family and close friends, was born March 16, 1928, in Morganton and was the oldest daughter of the late Loyd Columbus Conley and the late Julia Ellen Fox Conley. She was a graduate of Morganton High School and was voted as the friendliest member of her senior class and recognized also for her beautiful smile.

She worked in banking in Wadesboro for 33 years, retiring in 1991 from United Carolina Bank. She enjoyed beautiful flowers, sacred hymns and playing bridge.

Doris was a longtime and active member of First Baptist Church, Wadesboro where she was member of the WMU, Ladies Circle, Edna Pearl Sunday School and faithful in church attendance.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Jerry Smith (Debbie) of Jacksonville, FL and Janis Sikes (Russell) of Wadesboro; her grandchildren, Kelly Smith and Mark Smith, both of Wadesboro and Kelsey Karr (Jacob) of Fuquay Varina; her great-grandchildren, Christian Smith, Sarah Brannon (Caleb), Jessica Smith, Tenly Karr and Beckett Karr; her sisters, Thelma Conley and Joan Chappell, both of Morganton and Betty Brown of Richmond, KY; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Gerold Smith in 2008.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 423, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

Mrs. Judy Dutton Poulcott, 83, died Friday, June 21, 2024, at her home surrounded by family who lovingly transitioned her into her heavenly home.

The family received family and friends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Leavitt Funeral Home. There will be a private celebration of life service in the future.

Judy was born September 28, 1940, in Richmond County, NC, a daughter of the late Marion Battle Dutton and the late Dorothy Rayfield Dutton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Jack Poulcott; her sister Gail Dutton Preslar, her brothers, Dr. Marion Donnie Dutton and Col. Charles Jackson Dutton; her grandson Jay Lear; and her niece Jody Gregory.

A 1956 graduate of Deep Creek High School, Judy worked in textiles in Anson County for several years until she chose her professional calling, accounting and income tax service. She trained with National Tax Service initially and continued her education in the field so that she could successfully run her own entrepreneurial business, Judy's Tax Service which is located at 102 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. Judy's Tax Service became a family business where friends met friends and successfully navigated the uncertain field of income taxes. Folks stopped by for income tax preparation and to say hello to their friend Judy and her family working there.

Judy retired years ago, but the family still runs the business. She remained the person who could solve the most perplexing tax question, of course, but viewed the business she began from a distance for the past couple of years. She loved Anson County all of her life and believed that each person was responsible for making this community a safe and caring one.

Three of her passions were philanthropic and caring in nature. Judy and her husband Jack were strong supporters of Little League baseball for years and loved the young men they helped to mentor during that time. In later years Judy threw her support behind the Stride With Pride initiative honoring Late Sheriff Landric Reid's granddaughter to provide new shoes for hundreds of young people at the beginning of each school year. Her daughter Patti and grandson Jackson continue to focus on that nonprofit drive annually. And, perhaps her greatest love other than these two initiatives was Long Pine Church. As the ancestral place of worship and their leadership roles there. Judy and her family have spent seven decades in various capacities, including worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, treasurer, chairperson of various committees, and coordinator of all trustee caretaking. In earlier years Judy and Jack ran Ansonia Theater and later donated it to the Anson County Arts Council.

Judy was the matriarch of the remaining "Deep Creek Duttons." As her health declined in recent years, the family continued to "come home" to ensure that they remain close knit together with strong ties of Christian and family love. No one enjoyed family and friends get-togethers more than Judy.

Surviving are her children Tammie Mills (Carl), Kay Jones (Marion) and Patricia Poulcott (John), all of Anson County, Jack Poulcott (Joni) and Tami Poulcott Easterday (Kent), all of Gainesville, GA; her grandchildren, Genia Treadaway (Michael), Brittany Casey (Josh), Brandy Harrington (Scottie), Christy Blackwell (Kevin), Jackson Poulcott, Clay Poulcott (Rachel), Cory Simpson (Kaitlyn), Mary Shannon Corn, Durham Harris (Tiffany), Jonathan Harris (Chelsea) and Anna Harris; her great-grandchildren Breyanna, Agatha, Hannah, Paysleigh, Raelynn, Bladen, Gracie, Kevin Jr., Colton, Reese and Roman; her sister Kathy Carroll (Joel) of Hudson, NC; and sisters-in-law, Peggy Dutton of Asheville, NC, Libby Dutton of Springdale, AR and Marcia Dutton of Lake Charles, LA. She was also loved by her nieces and nephews Lynn Byrd (Gary) of Germantown, TN, Mark Dutton (Kim) of Fayetteville, AR, Steve Dutton (Melody) of Locust, Scott Dutton (George) of Asheville and their families. Also her longtime friend, Emily Carpenter of Polkton.

The family thanks special friends who, through the years and recent physical challenges, have made Judy's life much more pleasant and productive, Miss Ella Thomas, Miss Jackie Chance, Miss Dawn Helms, and Dr. Michael Lincoln.

Special thanks to Liberty HomeCare and Liberty Hospice for their love and excellent care they shared with the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Long Pine Church, c/o Kay Jones (church treasurer), 351 Hanna Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170 or to Shaundasia T Smith Foundation, for Stride With Pride, c/o Patricia Poulcott, 102 S. Rutherford Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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