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**Mr. Earl
Franklin Gregory**

Mr. Earl Franklin Gregory, 85, of Ellerbe and formerly of Wadesboro,

Obituaries

died peacefully Thursday, November 28, 2019, at Richmond County Hospice Haven in Rockingham.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Jimmy Knotts officiating. A private inurnment will take place at a later date in Anson Memorial Park.

Earl was born May 18, 1934, in Anson County, a son of the late John Dawson Gregory and the late Josie Williams Gregory. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having served during the Korean Conflict. Earl was retired from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Surviving are his children, Dean Gregory and Lynn Gregory Nance (Clay), all of Ellerbe; his grandsons, Austin Brown of Aberdeen and Hunter Brown of Ellerbe; his brothers and sisters, Richard Gregory of Pinebluff, J.D. Gregory of Louisville, KY, Lou Moore of Wadesboro and Margie Ashby of Hamlet.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Faye Maree Gregory and by his sisters and brother, Pauline Gregory, Irene Williams and Kurt Gregory.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of Richmond County Hospice for the loving manner in

his final days.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Richmond County Hospice Haven, 1119 US-1, Rockingham, NC 28379.

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

Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Smith Edwards

Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Smith Edwards 80, passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2019, at Hospice House of Union County.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, December 5, 2019, at Union Grove Baptist Church. Interment followed in the Marshville City Cemetery.

Pat was born in Union County on July 25, 1939 to the late Paul Henry and Nettie Edwards Smith.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her grandson Steven Coley and her sister-in-law Kathy Smith.

Pat was retired from Autumn Care where she worked 29 years in the dietary department. She found her enjoyment in her family, her neighbors, her friends, her church family and the beach.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Max Edwards of the home; three sons, Michael Edwards (Sheri) of Chesterfield, Marty Edwards (Becky) of Peachland and Mark Edwards (Robin) of Rockingham; her daughter

Monica Edwards and her friend Billy Moore of Peachland; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, Gary Smith (Betty) of Indian Trail, and William G. "Butch" Smith (Peggy) and Terry Smith (Nancy), all of Marshville; and her sister Janice Morris (Gerald) of Marshville.

The family requests that memorials be made to: Hospice of Union County, 700 Roosevelt Blvd. W., Monroe, NC 28110 or Union Grove Baptist Church, 2506 Old Lawyers Road, Marshville, NC, 28103.

Online condolences may be made at www.morganandsonfuneralhome.com.

Medicare Open Enrollment Runs Until this Saturday, December 7

The Medicare enrollment period is now open and runs for the next seven weeks. Each year during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to compare and evaluate their current plan and make changes as necessary. By comparing plans during the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries can save money and ensure their 2020 plan is best suited to meet their needs.

The Open Enrollment Period began Tuesday, October 15, and all changes must be made by December 7 to ensure coverage begins without interruption January 1, 2020.

"It's time to enroll, keep or change your Medicare coverage for next year," North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey said. "The process is easy. We have customer service reps standing by to help walk you through the process. Call us now at 855-408-1212."

Commissioner Causey also noted that comparing Part D plans annually is necessary to make sure you get the best coverage for your prescription needs. The staff from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, is ready to help seniors with all their Medicare enrollment questions. They're available over the phone or in-person in all 100 counties in North Carolina. In Anson County call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Open Enrollment Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell or endorse any product, plan, or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2020:

- Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beneficiaries can also request in-person assistance in their home county.
- Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare current coverage and enroll in a new plan if changes are needed.
- Review the Medicare & You handbook, which was mailed to beneficiaries in September.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 704-694-6616 or 1-855-408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

Open Enrollment Has Begun on *HealthCare.gov*

NC Navigators are free and are your guide to affordable care.

Call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit ncnavigator.net to make your free, in-person appointment with an NC Navigator near you.

The average plan cost for next year has decreased.

NC Navigators are here to help North Carolinians enroll in affordable health insurance plans on HealthCare.gov during the Affordable Care Act's seventh open-enrollment period, which started November 1 and runs through December 15.

Throughout open enrollment, North Carolina consumers can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit www.ncnavigator.net to schedule a free, confidential, in-person appointment with a certified NC Navigator in their area.

Consumers can also meet with navigators by attending any of the 80 free enrollment events to be held across the state during open enrollment. All enrollment events are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Check out the events calendar on ncnavigator.net for the complete list.

NC navigators are trained to help consumers enroll in coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov, the online storefront that consumers can visit to browse and enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans.

NC navigators can help consumers understand the details of the plans available on HealthCare.gov, complete the enrollment process and determine their eligibility for financial assistance. Last year, nine in 10 North Carolinians who enrolled in coverage on HealthCare.gov received financial assistance.

"We want consumers to know that financial assistance is still available," Mark Van Arnem, director of the Consortium, said. "Most North Carolinians who are enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan get financial help that lowers the monthly cost of their coverage to less than \$70. Navigators can help consumers determine if they are eligible for financial assistance and, if they are, help them sign up to get it."

North Carolinians who are already enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan will automatically get re-enrolled in 2019 coverage, but navigators are urging consumers to check back in to see if a more suitable plan is available. The average cost of premiums has decreased to \$68 a month, so consumers might be able to find a plan that offers equivalent or better coverage for cheaper.

Library Offers Internet Backpacks for Checkout

You can now check out the internet from your local library! The Hampton B. Allen Library has received internet backpacks to loan to the general public. The backpacks are equipped with a Chromebook, wireless hotspot and charging cords for both. Patrons with accounts in good standing will be eligible to check out a backpack for two weeks.

The library hopes these backpacks will help families and individuals, especially students, without reliable internet at home.

For more information you can call the library at 704-694-5177 or stop by in person at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Ladies Out at Grace Senior Center

Ladies Out is held every Monday at 1 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. To find out what that is, and to register, call 704-694-6616.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Board of Elections Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, December 10

December 3 meeting rescheduled to December 10

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Board of Elections Office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

Here is the agenda:

- Call to order at 5 p.m.
- Approval of minutes, if applicable
- Filing updates
- Election law updates (Absentee law changes/Early Voting changes)
- One Stop Early Voting/Election Day precincts restroom resolution
- School Board resolution for vacant seat
- Out of office information: Director Dec. 23-27, Assistant Director Dec. 23-26
- Questions, comments and other matters

To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting.

During all board meetings, those in attendance are asked to refrain from comments and questions to the board unless they are called upon by the board. At the end of each meeting the board will open the floor for comments and questions.

For more information call 704-994-3223.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, December 9 One Stop/Early Voting plans due to the state board for primary

Tuesday, December 10 Regular Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m.

December 25-27 Office closed for Christmas holiday

Wednesday, January 1 Office closed for New Years holiday

Tuesday, January 14 Regular Board of Elections meets, 5 p.m.

Monday, January 20 Office closed for MLK holiday

**Notice of
Regular Meeting December 10
WADESBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Board of Commissioners of the Wadesboro Housing Authority meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

The meeting is held at 1 p.m.
at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Wadesboro.

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