



Barbara Harris Richmond

March 4, 1930 - January 25, 2018

Barbara Harris Richmond, 87, passed peacefully to our Lord in Heaven on January 25, 2018.

Barbara Harris was born March 4, 1930 in Salisbury, NC, and was the 3rd child of Charles Theodore Harris and Lyda Gribble Harris. She was raised in Salisbury and attended Boyden High School, excelling in music, voice, drama, and dance. Early on, Barbara recognized her gift for music and pursued that throughout her life. In 1948, she enrolled at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (WC now UNCG). As a vocal and instrumental leader at WC, she set the groundwork for many young women to follow.

In the summer of 1952, after graduating with a BA in Music Education from WC, Barbara was asked by the Salisbury Jaycees to participate in the 2nd annual Miss Salisbury Contest. On a whim, she said yes. Barbara went on to claim the Miss North Carolina title a month later as well. The rest is history.

Barbara married Allen Spencer in Salisbury, August 1, 1953. She taught music in the Wilson, NC and the Chapel Hill city school systems before returning to Salisbury and raising two loving sons, Steven and Scott. In the early to mid-1960s, Barbara was an awesome homemaker and she taught music and piano.

In the early 70's, Barbara met, and fell in love with David Richmond. He became her soulmate first and then her husband in 1972. Barbara continued her career as an artist and musician throughout her life. She and Dave relocated in 1973 to the close knit community of Darlington, S.C. where she continued her love for music and a new found passion for painting. There, she was very active in the choir and other activities at Saint Matthews Episcopal Church. She really enjoyed her time in Darlington and made lifelong friends that she stayed close to over the years.

Barbara and Dave Richmond turned another page in 1986 and restored an old family home in Spruce Pine, NC. They opened that home as one of the first B&B's in North Carolina and named it, "The Richmond Inn". Many friends and family have spent very special times there in Spruce Pine over the last 30 years. Barbara sang in the choir and directed music at Trinity Episcopal Church. During that time, Barbara was a consultant and benefactor of the Penland School of Crafts in Bakersville, NC. She also explored and developed her artistic talents to begin a new career as an accomplished painter.

In their later years, Barbara and Dave relocated to Ocean Isle Beach, NC where they were very active at The St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Shallotte, NC. They enjoyed the beach, golf, reading and retirement.

Barbara, following Dave's suggestion, returned home to Salisbury in 2005. Contrary to Thomas Wolfe, "You can always go home again" and Barbara was welcomed with open arms! She immediately made an impact on Salisbury. Extremely focused, and a multitasker from birth, Barbara volunteered and gave back to her home town with all the passion and resilience she had in her younger years. Barbara had a purpose driven life and her eyes and ears were always focused on Jesus Christ.

Meals on Wheels, Rowan Helping Ministries, Waterworks Visual Arts Center, Carolina Plein Air Painters, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and many more.

Barbara loved and supported all the friends she worked with over years. She never met a stranger, and although often feisty, she never said a bad word about anyone. She was an awesome Mom, Friend, and Role Model, and most importantly, always full of love. A lifelong Tar Heel fan, Barbara always loved the Carolina Blue. Dean Smith once told her that she needed to calm down. She said, "That ain't happenen".

Special thanks go out to all the folks at Trinity Oaks Health and Rehab and specifically all the Nurses and CNA's that loved and cared for Barbara during her stay. The family would also like to thank Darcy Verhoeven, of Salisbury. Darcy was a great friend and Barbara's prominent care giver over the last several months.

Barbara is survived by her brother, Thomas Burton Harris of Salisbury. Her sons and daughters, Steven Allen Spencer and wife Jana of Charlotte, Burton Scott Spencer and wife Callie of Duluth, GA, Paul Stephen Richmond and wife Pam of Edenton, NC, Jill Richmond Sweeten of Raleigh, and Julie Cecilia Richmond of Austin, TX. Barbara's grandchildren are Scott Allen Spencer, Duluth, GA, Kathryn Spencer Carr, and husband Bradley, Athens, GA, Jack Andrew Wilhelm and wife Heather, Charlotte, Courtney Leigh Bickler and husband Paul, Wilmington, NC, Elizabeth Nicole Richmond, Sacramento, CA, and Abby Elizabeth Richmond, Wilmington, NC. Great grandchildren are Ari, Samuel, and Orion Bickler

The celebration of a life well lived is scheduled for 2 pm on Friday February 2nd in Salisbury at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 West Council Street with a special guest reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Rowan Helping Ministries, 226 N. Long St, Salisbury, NC, 28144, Hospice/Palliative Care Center of Salisbury, 720 Grove St, Salisbury, NC, 28144, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Salisbury, NC, 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
131 West Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I first met Barbara and Dave when I rented the cottage above the Richmond Inn after relocating to Spruce Pine, NC in 1986 when I was almost thirty, shortly after they had acquired and converted the inn. In fact, I assisted Dave with electrical and other work at the inn while they were still there. I also lived for short times in both of their cottages in Little Switzerland and helped them move from the inn to their home in Swiss Pine Lake.

We became close friends and being almost thirty years their junior they became like adopted parents to me. Indeed, I still consider Dave the closest thing to a mentor I've ever had in life. He and I had many long talks and I always cherished their advice and friendship. They were both instrumental in helping me turn my life around at a critical juncture.

After almost thirteen years in Spruce Pine I left to travel around the country with the company I was with, but would always visit them when I returned. The last time I saw them was in Salsbury not long after Dave was diagnosed with cancer. I have thought of both he and Barbara many times over the years and will forever feel blessed for having known them and their entire family.

Bill Davis - March 01, 2019 at 05:09 PM

PG

“ Pat And Tommy Gribble lit a candle in memory of Barbara Harris Richmond



Pat and Tommy Gribble - April 06, 2018 at 12:52 AM

TG

“ Tommy, Pat & Jim Gribble lit a candle in memory of Barbara Harris Richmond



Tommy, Pat & Jim Gribble - April 06, 2018 at 12:45 AM

SM

“ I knew Dave and Barbara when they lived in Little Switzerland NC and were hosting guests at the Richmond Inn. My favorite memory of Barbara was the evening she and my mother played dueling dulcimers after a lovely dinner at my parents' home. My condolences to all the family.

Sally Meeting

Sally Meeting - February 08, 2018 at 12:08 PM

GB

“ Barbara and Dave were long time friends and neighbors of ours in Spruce Pine. Barbara was a very energetic, outgoing, talented lady who shared generously her many gifts to us all. She was a bright, shining light wherever she went and will be sorely missed. We send our condolences to Steve, Scott and all the family.

George & Patty Bennett

George & Patty Bennett - February 04, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Harris Richmond.*



February 02, 2018 at 09:21 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Barbara Harris Richmond.*



February 01, 2018 at 08:57 PM



“ *Darryl and Stacey Jackson purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Barbara Harris Richmond.*



Darryl and Stacey Jackson - January 29, 2018 at 12:15 PM



“ *I've known Barbara since she and Allen moved back to Salisbury and were next door neighbors, I babysat Steve and Scott and spent a lot of time with the family. While we are no longer “officially” family, I still love you all. What a wonderful lady, a great talent and terrific mother who will truly be missed, but she certainly left her mark on everyone she touched. While I am out of town and will miss her celebration of life, my thoughts and prayers are with you boys and all the family. Much love, Zandra*

Zandra Spencer - January 28, 2018 at 09:01 PM

SS

Thank you Zandra. And you will always be part of our family!

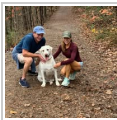
Steven Spencer - January 29, 2018 at 12:21 PM

KN

“ *Several years ago, Barbara joined a singing group of approximately 25 senior citizens sponsored by our YMCA called the Y Wonders. I am privileged to be the leader of this group. We go to nursing homes, senior citizen groups, and basically anywhere we're invited and share our love for music as well as enjoy fellowship with the people there. Getting to know Barbara meant so much to me. She was always so joyful, faithful, and enthusiastic and added so much. We were all saddened when she was no longer able to sing with us. She was a beautiful lady who definitely left our world a better place. She will be missed*

*In Christian love,
Kathy Norris*

Kathy Norris - January 28, 2018 at 06:31 PM



Thank you Kathy. Y Wonders were a big part of her life over the last few years. You lead an awesome group. Heard you all perform a few times. Very nice!

Steven Spencer - January 29, 2018 at 12:25 PM

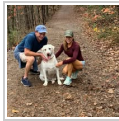
SH

“ We were privileged to know Barbara as a neighbor (across the street) and friend here in Salisbury. We have some of her beautiful works of art, and every time we look at them and across at her former home we will think of her. We enjoyed going out for breakfasts with her at College Barbecue and Marlowe's as well as attending many concerts of the Salisbury Symphony together. She expressed lots of love and was such fun to be around!

We will miss her terribly but know she is going forward in God's care.

In appreciation of her life,
Sue and Dane Hartgrove

Sue Hartgrove - January 28, 2018 at 03:59 PM



Thank you Sue and Dane. Mom loved you and you were great friends and neighbors

Steven Spencer - January 29, 2018 at 12:27 PM

DV

“ Darcy Verhoeven lit a candle in memory of Barbara Harris Richmond



Darcy Verhoeven - January 27, 2018 at 04:55 PM