



Charlotte Ancher Gardner

November 14, 1931 - June 10, 2020

Charlotte Ancher Gardner, 88, passed away on June 10, 2020, at the Tucker Hospice House in Kannapolis, NC.

Mrs. Gardner was born November 14, 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland to Marcel and Charlotte Knapp Ancher. She was preceded in death by her mother, Charlotte A. Palmer; father, Marcel Ancher; husband, Lester E. Gardner; daughter, Jeanne D. Gardner; son, Ted A. Gardner; and daughter-in-law, Bettina M. Gardner.

She was educated at St. Anne's and St. Anthony's parochial schools in Baltimore, MD before moving to Rockwell, NC. She then graduated from Rockwell High School in 1949 with the honor of being second in her class. She continued her education at Catawba College where she graduated in 1952 after just three years with an AB in English and French and with the distinction of Cum Laude.

After college, she married Lester E. Gardner in 1952. They went on to raise six children. Before having children, she became employed as a high school teacher and taught school in both Robeson and Jones county. She returned to Rowan County in 1955 and worked as a teacher, teacher's aide, substitute teacher, and temporary interviewer at the Employment Security Commission. Charlotte was a current member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and actively participated in the annual bazaar, St. Anne's Circle, and Catholic daughters. She served as a Past Secretary and Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, in addition to her many other notable roles within Salisbury's faith

community. Past memberships include: N.C. Right to Life, Rowan County Humane Society, MADD (Director, 1984-85; Vice-President, 1982-1984), Choral Society, and Altrusa. She was a leader in both Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Trustee, Vice-President, Rowan Advocates for the Mentally Ill, Board of Directors, Pregnancy Counseling Center; Board of Directors, Families in Action for Drug Free Youth; and Chairman, Salisbury-Rowan Mayors Council for Persons with Disabilities. She served as Assistant treasurer and treasurer of Junior Woman's Club, president of Sacred Heart PTA, Vice-Chairman of the Milford Hills GOP Precinct, and Vice-President of the Rowan County Republican Party. She also volunteered at Meals-on-wheels.

In 1985, Charlotte was the first woman Rowan County elected as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives and served for 16 years. She served as Secretary-Treasurer, Women's Legislative Caucus, 1999-2000. She was a member of many boards and commissions during her service: Corresponding Secretary, Region 3, National Order of Women Legislators; Advisory Board, Women's Network National Conference of State Legislators; Co-Chair, N.C. Study Commission on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse; Director, Community Life Council; Community Resource Council for Piedmont Correction Center. Her committee Assignments included Member, Aging, Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Financial Institutions, and Judiciary I.

During her service as a Legislator, Charlotte achieved many awards including: The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, from N.C. Governor James G. Martin; Distinguished Service Award from the Rowan County Republican Party; Appreciation Award, Rowan Mental Health Coalition; Beginnings (Parents of Hearing Impaired Children) President's Leadership Award; Outstanding Legislator Award, N.C. Alliance for the mentally Ill; Valand Award for Outstanding Legislator in the Cause of Mental Health, Mental Health Association in N.C.; Outstanding Representative Leadership Award, NC Council of Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Programs; 1995 Legislator of the Year, N.C. Alliance for the

Mentally Ill; David T. Flaherty Merit Service Award; Great and Powerful Oz designation, N.C. Pharmacist Recovery Network.

Charlotte was a guest of the President and Mrs. Reagan at a luncheon held at the White House in 1984. She also attended the Inaugural Ball in 1985 for President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush.

Most people wouldn't find any spare time with a schedule like Charlotte's, but she found a way to garden throughout her life which is exhibited by the many beautiful roses and flowers surrounding her home. She enjoyed spending time with friends and was a member of the Red Hat Society.

She is survived by three sons, Terrence (Terry) Gardner of Pittsboro, NC, Timothy (Tim) Gardner (Kerry) of Salisbury, Thomas (Tom) Gardner of Roxboro, NC, and a daughter, Leslie Gardner Tully (Mike) of Snellville, Georgia. She is also survived by a grandson, Garrett Gardner of Salisbury, and five granddaughters, Katie Gardner Nickerson (Stephen) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, Mallory Gardner of Wilmington, NC, Victoria (Tori) Gardner of Dallas, TX, Savannah and Chloe Tully of Snellville, GA. Additionally, she is survived by two greatgrandchildren, Brooks Barger and Harper Lennox Nickerson.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00am on Wednesday, June 17 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church by Father John Eckert with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Sacred Heart Catholic Church Memorial Fund, 375 Lumen Christie Lane, Salisbury, NC 28147.

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

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Charlotte Ancher Gardner.*



June 17, 2020 at 08:05 AM



“ *To the Gardner family, Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate the life of your mom even as you grieve her passing. She had a great influence on my life and I loved both her and your dad. She made so many contributions to her church, the community, state and of course her first priority, her family. She will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Praying for you all.*

Anne Greenland Kennedy - June 16, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ *Our lives have crossed in many ways: school, work, Girl Scouts, bridge. It has always been a pleasure to be with Charlotte; cheerful but nonsense, ready for the next challenge. She will be greatly missed. What fun we had when we took our Girl Scout troop to Savannah, GA. to the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, founder of Girl Scouts. She also played a mean hand of bridge. Our prayer and thoughts are with the Family.. Betty Denaux and Family*

Betty Denaux - June 16, 2020 at 02:28 PM

PK

“Charlotte Gardner was a great public servant, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

When I was a teacher of daughter Jeannie, she and Les were very supportive parents. As a lobbyist in Raleigh, I was proud to tell everyone that she was a representative from my home county. She was a woman of principle, integrity and an extremely hard worker on behalf of her constituents. Charlotte was "head and shoulders" above many of our politicians today. A staunch conservative and Republican, she worked well with members of both parties who respected her. I received a thoughtful note in her Christmas card each year and I will miss those notes very much. My prayers are with her family as we celebrate a life well lived in the midst of great sadness.

Phil Kirk - June 15, 2020 at 08:00 PM

BG

“Terry, Leslie, Tim, Kerry, Tom and family - I was deeply saddened to read the news yesterday about Mrs. Gardner's passing. She led a selfless and exemplary life of Love, Leadership, and Service to God, her family, her church, her community, and to countless others. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Bruce Greenland - Woodbridge, Virginia

Bruce Greenland - June 15, 2020 at 01:37 PM

KC

“Charlotte Gardner is well remembered by me. One of my best friends worked for Charlotte her first term in the House of Representatives for several years. Charlotte was very dedicated to the needs of her constituents and served in her house position very well for North Carolina. My prayers and thoughts in this time of mourning to all family members.
Sincerely, Kathy Cooke

Kathy Cooke - June 15, 2020 at 10:43 AM

DR

“I had the pleasure of serving with Charlotte in the NC House --she was a hard worker for her community and I know she will be missed--She was always a gracious Lady--
David Redwine

David Redwine - June 15, 2020 at 10:01 AM

GK

“Much sorrow and grief over the hearing of Charlottes passing. She came to many of our Right to Life Meetings over which I presided in Rowan County. We have nothing but great respect for this honorable Public Servant ..Wife Mother Grandmother Etc. Our prayers are lifted up even now 4 the family on her passing

gerald kondok - June 14, 2020 at 02:48 PM

MV

“Charlotte will always have a part of my heart. What a positive and beautiful lady who led by her example of living a life full of zest. All my love and prayers go out to you now and forever.

Michele E Vaeth - June 12, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Knowing Charlotte for only a short time I still became aware of her deep faith, and love for family. She is a pioneer for her time. Many fond memories she shared of her family as Mother, wife, and daughter. And devoted causes she strived for. I will miss her to. She became dear to my heart. Myra Ireland*

Myra Ireland - June 12, 2020 at 05:21 PM

ST

*Our heartfelt sympathy to the entire Gardner family. What a special lady, neighbor and friend! We will so miss sharing warm conversations, Christmas goodies and ladies luncheons. She and "Lefty" were wonderful family friends for a very long time. Their children were the greatest source of their love and pride.
Sally & Gary Taylor*

Sally Taylor - June 15, 2020 at 01:34 PM