



Elizabeth "Beth" Rusher Lipkin

February 8, 1954 - May 8, 2026

Elizabeth "Beth" Rusher Lipkin of Salisbury, North Carolina, was a woman whose life was defined by the quiet art of nurturing - whether it was the students in her classroom, the delicate threads of a cross-stitch, or the heart of her only son. Beth passed away peacefully on May 8, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and a vision for the potential in everyone she met.

Born on February 8, 1954, Beth was a true daughter of the Carolinas. She graduated from Cabarrus Academy in Concord in 1972 before moving on to Columbia College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education in 1976. This was the beginning of a lifelong vocation; Beth didn't only work as a teacher; she lived her life as one.

Over the decades, she shaped young minds across several schools, including North Elementary School, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, and the Sloan School, she spent 30 years dedicated to her students. She even served as an Assistant Director at the University of South Carolina's Creative Learning Center. Beth's classroom was a place where every child was seen. She famously kept a treasure trove of student work. Sketches, stories, and handmade gifts. cherishing the efforts of "her kids" long after they had moved on to the next grade.

Beyond the classroom, Beth was a gifted artist who found beauty in the details. She possessed a southern grace that she funneled into her watercolor paintings and elegant cross-stitch designs. She was often found sketching her friends, capturing their likenesses with a practiced hand. Her greatest creative

ambition was in the world of children's literature; she spent years drafting stories that captured the magic and wonder of a young boy growing up. Written from a mother's perspective, these stories were a testament to her own journey of motherhood and her desire to teach children about the empathy and curiosity required to navigate the world.

To those who knew her best, Beth was the keeper of the "corny joke." She spent hours searching for just the right pun or silly story to share, finding genuine joy in the smiles (and the occasional polite groans) of her friends and family. It was her way of reminding people she was thinking of them. She was an exemplary Southern woman: a warm and faithful friend, a kind mother, and a mentor who always put the growth of others first.

She is survived by her son, Richard Lipkin Jr.; her brother, Bill Rusher; and her ex-husband, Rick Lipkin.

What will be missed most is the effortless way she loved. Beth always had a vision for the people she educated and raised; she knew the answers they needed before they did, guiding them forward with a gentle, persistent nudge toward their best selves.

A graveside service to celebrate Beth's life and legacy will be held on May 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Rowan Memorial Park 4125 Franklin Comm Center Road Salisbury, NC 28144.

Services are being conducted by Summersett Funeral Home. The family welcomes all who knew and loved Beth to join them in remembrance of a life so beautifully lived. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Rowan Memorial Park

4125 Franklin Comm Center Rd
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 636-8751

Previous Events

Graveside Services

MAY **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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4125 Franklin Comm Center Rd
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 636-8751

Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Beth" Rusher Lipkin.*



May 13 at 07:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elizabeth "Beth" Rusher Lipkin.

May 13 at 07:34 PM



“ *Bill, those words shared about Beth were so true. I could feel her nearby and hear her soft laugh. You were her strength in the last few years and she loved you dearly. She cherished your visits and you took care of her needs and wishes. As Beth would say..."Good job, brother!"*



Cousin, Frances - May 12 at 11:20 PM

JE

“ *Dear Bill,
Our deepest condolences. So sorry to hear about your sister.
Sending you & your family love and prayers during this difficult time.
God Bless.
Your friends,
Donald & Juanita Easterby
Charleston, SC*

Juanita Easterby - May 12 at 12:39 AM