



Esther Rufty Hodgin

February 1, 1951 - March 11, 2012

Esther Rufty Hodgin, age 61, of Salisbury passed away Sunday, March 11, 2012 at The Laurels of Salisbury after an extended illness.

Born February 1, 1951, in Salisbury, to the late Raymond Wilson Rufty and the late Annie Kluttz Rufty. She was educated in the Rowan County Schools, graduating from North Rowan High School in 1969. Esther graduated from Appalachian State University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Art Education. She was a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury.

Esther was gifted with a gentle and loving spirit. She was known for her generosity to family, friends and strangers. She enjoyed conversations about art, antiques and the stock market; she was an avid collector of china. She practiced the lost art of visitation; often, she would "stop in" bearing the simple gifts of companionship, and sometimes, her unexpected presence would provide unexpected gifts. Esther could be relied upon to call on any family member or friends that needed a smile, a word of encouragement, or something as vital as groceries. No one could miss the genuine smile and glad heart that she shared with the world. Esther never met a stranger. She met all who came with love and acceptance.

Survivors include her loving husband of 23 years, Richard Cordell Hodgin; sisters Ruby R. Rutherford of Pukekohe, South Auckland, New Zealand, Luann Bridle (Ken) of Walnut Cove and Raye Ratliff (Rick) of Abingdon, VA; niece Heather Rutherford of New Zealand; nephews Alex Rutherford of New

Zealand, Matthew Roach of Greensboro, Palmer Hodgkin of High Point, Brian Hodgkin of Wilmington and Evan Hodgkin of Greensboro; father-in-law Rufus Hodgkin of Greensboro; sister-in-law Jane Roach (Ed) of Greensboro; brother-in-law John Hodgkin (Marty) of Greensboro; numerous Family Members and Friends.

Visitation and Service: The family will receive friends from 1-2:00 PM Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at St. John's Lutheran Church Library. The service will follow in the Sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church conducted by Rev. Rhodes Wooley, Rev. Jan Huntley and Rev. David P. Nelson. Burial will follow at City Memorial Park.

Memorials: Rowan Hospice and Palliative Care, 720 Grove St., Salisbury, NC 28144; St. John's Lutheran Church, 200 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144 or to Rowan Helping Ministries, PO Box 4026, Salisbury, NC 28145-4026.

Special Thanks: Dr. Brinkley and staff, Hospice staff, Tammy Smith, Elizabeth Wear, Eleanor Sifford, Christine Hilton, Barbara Upright, Jane Roach and Lorna Medinger.

Tribute Wall



“ *Our Deepest Sympathy to you and your family.*

from our famil###imported-begin###Carolyn kolar###imported-end###

March 15, 2012 at 11:03 AM



“ *Raye, our prayers are with you and your entire family! Please accept our deepest sympathy.###imported-begin###Diane and Gary Mueller###imported-end###*

March 13, 2012 at 05:34 AM



“ *You are in our prayers.I went to school with Esther and she will be missed.She was a very good friend.I am so sorry for your loss.###imported-begin###Judy House Lane###imported-end###*

March 12, 2012 at 12:23 PM



“ *Esther was definitely a diamond. She would visit me at the bank to talk about stocks & her beloved Richard. Esther will truly be missed. Many blessings to the Rufty & Hodgkin families.###imported-begin###Tina JC###imported-end###*

March 12, 2012 at 11:25 AM



“ *There is no way I could ever list all the things you have done for me and our family. At one time Richard had told me if anything ever happen to him, he was counting on me to see you were taken care. I told him of course Esther is family. To be true that was an understatement. You were more then just family but I just don't know how to put it into words.*

I will miss my china fairy, my kids shoe fairy, and my dear friend. You are no longer in pain and I am greatful but you time here was still to short. You touched so many without ever considering any hardship on yourself.

Now that you are in heaven I will no longer give you a hard time about picking up strangers along the road and giving them a lift, of course to you no one was ever a stranger. Enjoy heaven and try not to laugh at us too much as we stumble along without you.

All my love, Jane###imported-begin##Jane Roach###imported-end##

March 12, 2012 at 08:58 AM