



## Jean Spake Rufty

May 5, 1929 - November 16, 2021

Jean Spake Rufty, 92, of Salisbury, passed away Tuesday, November 16th, 2021 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born May 5, 1929, in Spencer, NC to the late William Duncan Spake and Virginia Miller Spake. She graduated from Spencer High School where she was a cheerleader. After high school, she worked at Southern Bell as a telephone operator. It was during this time that she met and married the love of her life and soulmate, Charles William Rufty, who preceded her in death on December 7, 2013 after 63 years of marriage.

A member of First Baptist Church in Spencer, Jean joined St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury upon her marriage.

Jean helped Charles to establish and operate Rufty Plumbing Company for many years. In later years, Jean and Charles joined with other family members in establishing and operating O.O. Rufty's General Store, Inc, Piedmont Garden Supply, Inc. Southeastern Plumbing Supply, Inc., Rufty's Garden Shop, Inc, and City Consignment Company, Inc.

Jean was a founding member of the Gala Bridge Club and played bridge for 70 years. She was a Brownie Scout Leader, member of numerous PTAs, and involved with the Women's Circle at St. John's, all while raising 5 daughters.

Her home was always open to family and friends, old and new, for fellowship, food, and fun.

She is survived by her 5 daughters: Tzena (Charles) Wicker, Lisa (Ray) Pope, Sheila (Raymond) Stowers, Lorna (Barry) Medinger, and Sabrina Rufty (Mark Lawyer).

She is also survived by 14 grandchildren: Johnny (Brittany) Wear, Lauren (Paul) Hoben, Barry (Brooke) Medinger, Brandon Hazlett (Lorenzo Ruiz), Nick (Kristina) Medinger, Sydney Roberson, Duke Wicker (Daisy Lemke), Elizabeth (Kit) Lowery, Liza (Jayme) Broeckling, Joey (Brittany) Lawyer, Matt (Tracy) Lawyer, Jacob Stowers, Connor (Sally) Stowers, and Jennifer (Chris) Hazlett.

In addition, she is survived by 19 great grandchildren: Will and Jack Wear, Isabel and Annabell Melton, Charleigh and Bennett Medinger, Griffin and Peyton Medinger, Aria, Everly, and Lilah Broeckling, Roman and Griffin Lawyer, Andrew and Jacob Lawyer, Ava and Mason Hazlett, and Austin and Abby Hoben.

She is also survived by her sister, Nancy Spake Lippard, and sister-in-law, Mary Johnson Spake. Also, a bonus son, Chris (Jackie) Crane, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and "adopted" family members.

She is also predeceased by two brothers, Charles Spake and Bill Spake.

Special love and thank yous to her caregivers: Elizabeth Lowery, Isabel Melton, Patti Watkins, Debra McLaughlin, Anna Sellers, and Annie Wilkey.

A visitation will be held at 1 pm on Friday, November 19 in Peeler Hall and will be followed by a 2 pm funeral service in the St. John's Lutheran Church

Chapel, 200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, NC. Services will be officiated by Rev. Dr. Rhodes Woolly. Burial will follow at City Memorial Park. Masks requested.

Memorials may be made to: Novant Health Rowan Hospice, 1229 Statesville Blvd., Salisbury, NC 28144, St. John's Lutheran Church, or Lutheridge, 2511 Hendersonville Rd., Arden, NC 28704.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Rufty Family. Online condolences can be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## City Memorial Park

1316 West Innes St  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 19, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 18, 2021 at 05:04 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to the “Rusty” girls. I remember get togethers with your mom and dad and you all at Christmas and picnics at the lakes (Granite and McCanlas)! We all had great times together-our parents were good friends. Your mom was always so sweet.  
Priscilla Kirchin Britton*

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**Priscilla Kirchin Britton** - November 18, 2021 at 04:05 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 18, 2021 at 08:42 AM

TF

“ *The Hartline & Hannold Families. purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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**The Hartline & Hannold Families.** - November 17, 2021 at 09:24 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 17, 2021 at 08:38 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 17, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 17, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Spake Ruffy.*



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November 17, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ *It has been said before, but bears repeating; Jean was a friend to all. I am classmate to one of her daughters and even though I'm not family, she treated me as such. I was always welcomed to many of the family holiday gatherings with love, compassion and friendship. She was a great lady with strong fortitude toward her fellow man. She will be greatly missed. Love you, Jean. Blessing be with the Ruffy family and all the relatives in their hour of sorry.*



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**Walter Adams** - November 17, 2021 at 10:44 AM



“ *Jean Ruffy was a friend to all. She welcomed us with her smile. She lived her faith. She and Charlie instilled their love and generosity in their beautiful daughters. She embraced everyone. Her bright light surrounded us all. We will all miss Jean but we will remember her with our words and our smiles. I wish comfort and peace to this beautiful family.*

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**Becky Lippard** - November 17, 2021 at 08:37 AM

BL

“ *Becky Lippard lit a candle in memory of Jean Spake Rufty*



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**Becky Lippard** - November 17, 2021 at 08:24 AM

DP

“ *What a beautiful tribute to such a special lady. My heart and prayers are with you all at this time. May your family have comfort and peace knowing that love surrounds you.*

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**Diane Peoples** - November 17, 2021 at 07:47 AM