



Joseph Graham Rutledge III

August 22, 1925 - July 13, 2019

Joseph Graham Rutledge, III, 93, of Salisbury, died Saturday, July 13, 2019 at the Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks.

Born August 22, 1925, Gastonia, Mr. Rutledge was the son of the late Joseph Graham Rutledge, Jr., and Junie Catherine Warlick Rutledge.

He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for one year before receiving an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, New York, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Nautical Science. Following his graduation, he served as a naval ensign aboard a U.S. troop transport in the North Atlantic for two years. Upon his return home, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and later graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

He married Ola Ross on August 16, 1952. He is also survived by daughters Catherine Rutledge Singer, Raleigh, Anne Rutledge O'Berry and husband Thomas, Winston-Salem, Elizabeth Rutledge Woodson and husband Paul, Salisbury, and Nancy Rutledge Sanders and husband Thomas, Winder, GA, and six grandchildren, Catherine Singer Adcox, Greensboro, James Raymond Smith, III, Winston-Salem, Kristin Woodson Harvey, Beaufort, Sidney Sanders Patton, Athens, GA, Joseph Graham Rutledge Smith, Winston-Salem, and Thomas Tharpe Sanders, Jr., Atlanta, GA, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rutledge had a distinguished, 40-year career in banking. During the last 30 years of his banking career, he acted as President, Chairman and CEO of

Security Bank and Trust Company. He was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church and served on many boards including the Parents' Advisory Board for the University of North Carolina System, NC Bankers' Association, Southern States Bank Card Association, NC Citizens for Business and Industry, First United Methodist Church, where he served as Treasurer, Rowan Memorial Hospital, Rowan Cabarrus Community College and Rotary Club.

A memorial service will be held on July 17 at 11 a.m. First United Methodist Church Chapel, in Salisbury, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti. The family will receive friends immediately following the service in the Stanback Room of the First United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 217 S Church St, Salisbury, NC 28144.

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

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
217 S. Church St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Visitation

JUL 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
217 S. Church St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

PK

“ Joe was a kind and gentle leader, always setting a positive example for his family and friends. He was truly a Southern gentleman who contributed much to what is good about Salisbury and Rowan County. My prayers are with the family.

Phil Kirk - July 30, 2019 at 08:30 AM

DH

“ It was my privilege to work under Mr. Rutledge at Security Bank beginning in 1990. Although it was just a few short years before he retired, I found him to be an honorable man of integrity and great wisdom. I am sure that Salisbury/Rowan County benefited from his leadership in many ways. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Doug Huntley, Laurinburg, NC

Doug Huntley - July 19, 2019 at 11:54 AM

PK

“ Joe Rutledge was always a force for "good" in Salisbury/Rowan. He and Ola supported their children in school and were active in so many worthy causes. His leadership style was effective. My prayers are with this outstanding family as they celebrate Joe's life while also grieving at his loss.

PHIL KIRK, Raleigh

Phil Kirk - July 17, 2019 at 08:00 AM

TW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked under Mr. Rutledge at Security in the early 70's. He was very kind to me when I told him I was leaving to bank to begin teaching career. If I had known he was at Trinity I would have visited him. My sincere sympathy is extended to you. *Telka Hall Weant*

Telka Hall Weant - July 16, 2019 at 09:13 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph Graham Rutledge III.*



July 15, 2019 at 04:56 PM