



## Mrs. Joyce Hilton Small Parra

June 2, 1937 - January 15, 2016

Mrs. Joyce Hilton Small Parra, 78, of Salisbury, NC passed away Friday, January 15, 2016 at the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House.

Born June 2, 1937 in Iredell County, NC she was the daughter of the late Ruth Virginia Rary and Edward Baxter Hilton.

She was a graduate of Mooresville High School and earned her bachelor's degree from UNC Charlotte. Mrs. Parra worked as a mental health social worker for the NC Department of Corrections for 30 years and Greenleaf Homes for 32 years. She was actively involved with NAMI, National Association for the Mentally Ill.

Along with her parents, preceding her in death is her first husband, Ernest Small; and daughter, Gina Shaw.

Those left to cherish her memory are husband, Carlos Hernan Parra; daughter, Janice Query; sons, Carlos Parra, Michael Small; 4 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will held Monday, January 18, 2016 from 10-12PM at Summersett Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be held at 12PM in the Summersett Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow at Centre Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, NC.

Memorials may be made to Rowan NAMI, PO Box 604, Salisbury, NC 28145-0604.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Parra family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 633-2111  
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

## Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Memorial Chapel  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Carlos,  
*I am so sorry to hear of Joyce's death. It am so privileged to have know both of you for so many years. The work the two of you did together has made such a great difference to our veterans as well as many in our community. Joyce was such a special person and she will be missed by all. May God bless you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Jim and Carla Mallinson*

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**Jim Mallinson** - January 19, 2016 at 11:53 AM

SH

“Joyce said we were sisters in a previous life and I have never doubted it! She has been a very close and cherished friend over the years and she holds a very special place in my heart. I will miss her deeply. She delighted in simple things and she encouraged me to appreciate a field of flowers, the way the sunlight fell across the yard, the birds, and the many men with whom we worked. I could count on her to always be authentic, honest, compassionate, and grateful. When she talked with you, she made you feel that you were loved and you were her only concern. No matter how busy she was, she always had time. She was the most generous, loving, non-judgmental person I have been blessed to know and I aspire to be more like her.

*I regret that I was unable to fulfill a promise I made to her sister, Bobbie; to have Joyce awarded the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine." This is one of the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina. It is presented to individuals who have given extraordinary service to the state and their communities. Joyce certainly deserved this recognition and I am extremely sorry that I was unable to obtain it for her.*

*I pray for her family and all who knew and appreciated her, that the void she leaves in our lives will be filled with memories of her love. God bless...*

*Sandy Huffman*

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**Sandy Huffman** - January 17, 2016 at 02:26 PM

SS

*Seven years ago I lost a very dear friend. Joyce Parra was such a good and kind woman with an enormous heart always filled with compassion for others. I think her death was harder for me than it was for her, after watching her daughter, Gina, die at 40 from breast cancer, the light left her eyes and seemed to mortally wound her spirit, I know because she told me this was why she refused any treatment. During our final conversation she shared her funeral plans with me and and her shopping trip to pick out a headstone - with her name and dates she asked the words "a humble servant of God" be added - truer words were never spoken. She left this world with grace and dignity. I've heard that you can forget what people say and do to you, but you never forget how they made you feel, Joyce loved me the same as I loved and treasured her and the friendship we shared for forty years. I have always believed that friends are the family you get to choose for yourself, and I am forever saddened that my world no longer has this amazingly special human being in it. 💔*

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**Sue Sanders** - March 05, 2023 at 11:00 AM

NG

*“ I worked with Joyce for 30 years in NC Dept of Correction, as did my husband, Jimmy Galyan. Joyce always had a quick smile, a warm embrace, a word of encouragement for all her fellow workers and we held her in high esteem. She was often the bright light in a gray day for me. I pray our Lord will comfort you in this trying time and reunite you with her in Eternity.*

*Nancy Galyan*

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**Nancy Galyan** - January 17, 2016 at 01:47 PM

JM

*Joyce played a special part in my childhood. I remember her fondly, and will never forget the light she brought into my life. May God bless her and comfort all those she left behind.*

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**John Morrow** - January 17, 2016 at 05:09 PM