



Mr. Julian "Sonny" Walker Carpenter Jr.

December 10, 1931 - August 5, 2015

Julian Walker "Sonny" Carpenter, Jr. passed away at his home on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 following a valiant battle with cancer. Sonny, as he was known to all, was born to Annie Bowen and Julian Walker Carpenter, Sr., on December 10, 1931, in Salisbury.

Sonny graduated from Boyden High School. His education at Catawba College was interrupted by his service in the United States Air Force from 1950-54. He returned to Catawba and graduated in 1957. Following Catawba, Sonny worked for HUD (Housing and Urban Development) before opening Carpenter Appraisal and Realty in 1980, which remained open until this past week.

Adrian Grenier once stated, "What is important is family, friends, giving back to your community and finding meaning of life....." words which truly defined Sonny Carpenter. Sonny was passionate about giving back to the community where he lived his entire life. He joined the Salisbury Rotary Club on July 1, 1957, where he had 58 years of perfect attendance prior to his illness. In Rotary, he held most leadership positions including President from 1972-1973 and secretary for 20 years. Sonny was also a Paul Harris Fellow. In 1987, he was part of the steering committee to form the Rowan Rotary Club.

In 1984, Sonny was appointed to the Salisbury Housing Authority where he

served as Commissioner for 16 years; as Vice Chairman for 4 years; and most recently as Chairman for the past 11 years. His 31 years of tenure on the Board is the longest of any member since the Board's inception in 1949. His leadership was critical in the development of two properties for low-income seniors: Fleming Heights in 2004 and Carpenter's Corner in 2008. In 2009, the Salisbury Housing Authority honored Sonny with the dedication of Carpenter's Corner located at the corner of South Long Street and South Shaver Street. Under his leadership, the Salisbury Housing Authority is replacing their oldest housing community, Civic Park, with 170 new energy efficient, mixed-income apartments on Brenner Avenue, a \$21 million investment in the West End.

Twenty years ago, Sonny was recognized as one of the top five donors of blood in the county. He began giving blood in 1947 when a classmate was injured in a sledding accident and needed blood. He was forced to stop giving blood while undergoing treatment for cancer.

Sonny married the former Dinah Belle Deitz on October 6, 1957, and they are the parents of two children. Daughter Jennifer Dean Carpenter Kennerly (Brian) lives in Concord with her husband and son, Murphey. Son Bowen Deitz Carpenter (Donna Heinrich) lives in Raleigh. Sonny was preceded in death by his two sisters, Joanne Carpenter Eberly and Isabelle Carpenter Murdoch. He is also survived by cousins, nieces and nephews.

Known for his great sense of humor and laid back style, Sonny loved spending time with his family, especially beach time at Cherry Grove from where he and his family recently returned from vacation. He was also very fond of playing the role of doting grandfather to grandson Murphey. His four-legged family members also held a special place in his heart.

A memorial service for Sonny will be held at First United Methodist Church in

Salisbury on Monday, August 10, 2015, at 2 PM. Members of the Salisbury and Rowan Rotary Clubs will be seated together. The family will receive guests in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Salisbury Rotary Scholarship Fund, (Jill Blumenthal, Donor Relations Specialist, Contributions, Foundation for the Carolinas, 220 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 To: Salisbury Rotary Club Scholarship Trust Fund,) First United Methodist Church (217 S Church St, Salisbury, NC 28144,) or Faithful Friends (220 Grace Church Rd, Salisbury, NC 28147.) Dinah, Jenny, and Bowen would like to express their thanks to Hospice of Rowan County for their care of Sonny during this very difficult time.

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

Previous Events

Service

AUG **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Dear Dinah, Jenny, Bowen, and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Sonny was a special man and gifted many
by touching their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with ya'll.

Love,
Sabrina and Mark and family

Sabrina Rufty - August 09, 2015 at 08:56 PM

RW

“ Jenny, Bowen and Ms. D,

What a wonderful man your father and soul mate was....a wonderful
fulfilling life. I feel blessed to have known his calm demeanor and
peaceful expression, although it's been all too many years. Carry
his spirit with you as I will.
God Bless You All! Ron White

Ron White - August 09, 2015 at 05:57 PM

BW

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Dinah. God
keep y'all in the palm of his hand. Love to you.
Betty Sue Mangum Whitman

Betty Sue Mangum Whitman - August 08, 2015 at 04:48 PM

EN

“ I am so sorry to hear that "Sonny" passed away. He was my favorite table mate at Rotary and I will greatly miss our wonderful conversations. He was a great man who contributed much to the community particularly in his work with Housing Authority. It is hard to believe he is gone. My thoughts and prayers are with Dinah and the family.

Edward Norvell - August 07, 2015 at 03:26 PM

MB

SONNY A GREAT MENTOR TO ME IN THE REAL ESTATE AND APPRAISAL PROFESSIONS. I ALWAYS ENJOYED OUR CE CLASSES TOGETHER. HIS DAUGHTER ASSISTED IN THE BIRTH OF MY DAUGHTER WHEN SHE WAS A NURSING STUDENT. NOW MY DAUGHTER IS A NURSING STUDENT. GOD BLESS THE ENTIRE CARPENTER FAMILY. A GREAT GENTLEMAN FROM A GREAT FAMILY. SONNY WILL BE MISSED.

MAC BUTNER - August 08, 2015 at 09:17 AM