



## Sandra "Sandy" Lee Thomason Reitz

July 3, 1943 - November 23, 2017

SALISBURY – Sandra “Sandy” Lee Thomason Reitz, 74, passed away peacefully at her home Thursday night (November. 23, 2017) after her long battle with dementia. Her husband of 51 years, Richard A. Reitz, was by her side to comfort her through her last moments of life.

Born July 3, 1943 in Charlotte, N.C. to Alfred and Peggy Thomason, Sandy was a graduate of Garinger High School in Charlotte and received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from UNC Greensboro. She received her master’s degree in social work from UNC Chapel Hill.

Her 45+ year career in social work began as case worker (in 1965) and ended as Assistant Director of Social Services at the Rowan County Department of Social Services. She helped and provided much needed relief and security to countless families, especially children, in and around the Rowan County area for many years. While small in stature, her charming southern wit and caring personality was almost superhuman, as were her strong feelings for Carolina Basketball.

Sandy was your consummate community leader, especially after her retirement from DSS. She was on the boards of Altrusa, the Bureau of Youth Services, the Rowan County Planning Board and heavily involved in Rowan County Food Distribution. In addition, she was a critical influencer and long-time member of the Rowan County Democratic Committee. If DSS was the focus in her working life, politics and supporting the Democratic Party was the focus in her retired life. Whether it was campaigning for local and national

democratic candidates or managing local county commissioner campaigns, Sandy was known for her analytical prowess and ability to debate the issues. But more importantly she was known for her ability to “listen” to all sides, and respected other viewpoints even if they went against her ideals, a trait that is sorely missed in today’s political agenda.

Sandy will be deeply missed by her son Charles “Allen” Reitz, his wife Jane and her two grandchildren, Charlie and Emma. In addition, she is survived by her sister Patricia “Pat” Kolb, her cousins Terri Beck and Robert Barber as well as her niece Helen Worster and nephews Mark and Scott Kolb. She is preceded in death by her sister Elizabeth “Betty” Worster.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the Summersett Memorial Chapel, 1315 W. Innes St., Salisbury, N.C. The service will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti of First United Methodist Church in Salisbury. A gathering will take place immediately after the services. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that all memorials can be sent in Sandy’s name to Rowan County Youth Services Bureau at 1322 S. Fulton St., Salisbury, N.C. 28144.

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

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

GC

“*Dick: I was sorry to read this morning's on-line SALISBURY POST obituary for Sandy. Her community and political activities were impressive. I wish you and your family the best for the future.*

*Grace Cooper  
Lawrence KS*

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**Grace Cooper** - November 30, 2017 at 09:12 AM

KH

“*Dick, I was so sorry to learn of Sandy's passing just as learning in the past of her struggle with that illness. When I came to Salisbury in 1976 as a new inexperienced Juvenile Court Counselor, Sandy immediately treated me as a respected colleague in our working relationship which lasted 30 years. We worked many cases together and also worked together on the Rowan County Community Based Alternatives Task Force and the use of Attention Homes as an alternative placement in Detention Centers. She was a dedicated and tireless worker for the children of Rowan County. Rowan County may never see her peer. God bless you and your family. Rest in peace, Sandy, my friend.*

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**Kenneth & Faye Hollar** - November 29, 2017 at 12:33 AM

LO

“ Dear Dr. Reitz and family,  
I am so sorry to hear about Sandy's passing. She was an amazing person. She had so much energy and spunk and was so smart and also good hearted and kind. She was good at cutting the chase of things and getting things done quickly. She helped make Rowan County better thru her beliefs and hard work. I also remember her loving her dog and she drove that cute, red Mazda convertible and helping Raymond. She was so excited when the grandchildren came along and I remember when she talked about visiting the grandchildren and her son and daughter in law up North, her face would just light up! I know she will be missed and she made such an impact by giving so much in her lifetime. So many of us are better people bec. of Sandy work. She persuaded me to have the courage to do things I had never done before and believed I could do a good job at it. She was also supportive of Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary and helped us with that when she was in better health (saving aluminum cans for us to recycle to raise money and help the animals!)  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we think the world of you both.  
Lots of Love,  
Lora Owen ( Friend of Sandy from RCDP & FF)  
Sandra Owen (retired from Catawba College)

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**Lora O.** - November 27, 2017 at 08:46 PM

RB

“ Remember Sandy from DSS in the timeframe of 1975 when she help place two foster children, Chuckie and Al ,with my mother in Gold Hill NC. My mom thought the world of Sandy. So sorry about the loss of your dear one.

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**Renda Barrier** - November 27, 2017 at 07:34 PM

CS

“ Dick,

*I have wonderful memories of Sandy and her fun loving spirit. We had the best time planning and implementing Jennifer Deadwyler Davis's bridesmaids luncheon many years ago. You and Sandy were cherished friends of my brother, Charles and Mandy. I have missed seeing both of you at church and around town. Surely, there is a crowning glory for Sandy in heaven for all the caring she gave to our county's families.*

*May God give you comfort, strength, and peace at this time. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

*In Christ Love,  
Connie & John*

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**Connie & John Sheehan** - November 25, 2017 at 04:53 PM