



Shirley Owen Henley

January 9, 1922 - August 15, 2020

Shirley Owen Henley, 98, of Greensboro, passed away Saturday, August 15, 2020, at Moses Cone Hospital. Due to Covid Restrictions an outdoor private inurnment will be held on August 25, 2020.

Shirley was born January 9, 1922 in Altavista, Virginia, to the late Damron and Bertha Keesee Owen.

She attended Averett College in Danville, Virginia. During World War II, while working as a secretary at Camp Pickett in Virginia, she met and fell in love with a dashing Air Force officer named Eugene Patrick "Gene" Henley. They were married on January 2, 1944, much to the chagrin of her 5-year-old sister, Judy, who was under the impression that Gene was going to marry her.

She was predeceased by husband Gene Henley, son Eugene Patrick "Pat" Henley; brothers Damron, Edsel and Kermit Owen; sister Marilyn Owen Simboli.

She is survived by sisters Charlean Fowlkes, of Burkeville, VA, Ruth Batt, of Melbourne, FL, and Judy Clark, of Murfreesboro, NC; daughters Susan Henley Yeager (Richard), and Holly Henley Grant, both of Greensboro; grandchildren Holley Yeager Bakich (Michael), of Tucson, AZ, Frank Yeager, of St. Joseph, MO, Christopher Alton (Julia), of Snohomish, WA, Patrick Alton (Erin), of Raleigh, Kelly Grant, of Greensboro, and Laurel Henley, of Aspen, CO; greatgrandchildren Hunter Yeager (Kayla), of Liberty, MO, and Liam and Charlie Alton, both of Raleigh.

Shirley was the quintessential Southern lady, always soft-spoken but possessing the ability to talk people into anything without an inkling of suspicion that they had been manipulated. She was a great cook, especially her fried chicken. When asked how she managed to live so long, she always replied, "well, I didn't plan to do that." It appeared to her family that her secret to longevity was moderation in all things, which came naturally to her. She regularly attended exercise classes and took long walks practically every day. One of her great passions was golf, and she preferred to walk the course rather than riding in a cart. She made a hole-in-one while in her 80s, and, whenever anyone commented on that feat, she would modestly reply, "well, it was only a par 3."

She was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church for over 70 years and was continually active in the church, making lifelong friendships along the way.

Shirley was a very social person, and at the time of her death, she had enduring friendships with people of all ages. She spent the last six months of her life at Abbotswood, joyfully partaking of all amenities, including Happy Hour. She made many new friends there, as well as some old friends who were already there. She was a force of nature and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry, 305 W. Gate City Blvd., Greensboro, NC 27406; or The Thompson Children's Home, 6800 St. Peter's Lane, Matthews, NC 28105.

Forbis & Dick Guilford Chapel is serving the Henley family. Online condolences may be offered to the family at <http://www.forbisanddick.com>.

Comments



“ LINDA CAIN lit a candle in memory of Shirley Owen Henley



LINDA CAIN - March 29 at 07:42 AM



“ LINDA CAIN sent a virtual gift in memory of Shirley Owen Henley



LINDA CAIN - March 29 at 07:41 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Owen Henley.



August 24, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ Shirley was an inspiration to all of us who played bridge together for many years. We all looked forward to her turn to host, so that we could partake of her scrumptious baked goods! Shirley even talked me into joining her at AHOY for a couple of years, but I was never able to keep up with her! She was a beautiful lady and will be greatly missed. My condolences to all the family at this time, especially to Susan my 'twin'.

Diane Shale - August 23, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ Shirley befriended my wife Shirley and me when we moved to Greensboro and joined St. Andrew's in 2005. I later found that we lived in the same neighborhood and often ran into each other when walking. I last saw Shirley in church Christmas Eve with her granddaughter. It turns out that she and my daughter, Meg Sisk, taught school together. Shirley was a true friend, always so positive and caring. I'm very thankful that our paths crossed.

William Hill - August 23, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ Susan and Holly, your mother was a dear friend and neighbor to Rocky, Brooke and me for over forty years. We all adored her, as did everyone else on Dogwood Drive. She was also a special friend to my parents, Louise and Claxton Edwards, having played bridge with Mother for many, many years. Shirley and Dad became golfing buddies in their latter years. She was with him when he made a hole in one and I bet he was with her when she made hers! We extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family! We loved her so much! - Brenda Harwood

Brenda Harwood - August 20, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ What a privilege it has been to know Shirley through teaching the AHOY exercise classes with the Greensboro Parks and Recreation and seeing her smiling face everyday at Abbotswood! Her presence and the light she shown will truly be missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.
Cathy McClellan, Wellness Assistant at Abbotswood at Irving Park

Cathy McClellan - August 19, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ I am so sorry for the family. She was also so kind hearted and caring. I never met her but she did make dolls for our new babies around here (co-workers with Holly). Many prayers and hugs sent!!

Alicia Cardwell - August 19, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your Loss. I've never met a nicer person than Shirley!

Len Lucas - August 19, 2020 at 08:16 AM