



## Susan Ann Clarke

December 19, 1945 - July 1, 2019

Susan Ann Clarke died on July 1, 2019 in Asheville NC from complications caused by early onset dementia. She was 73.

Ms. Clarke is survived by her sister Ellen G Clarke and her brother-in-law John H Byrd, Jr of Asheville and their loving family, including her nieces Joanna C Wade (Brian); Abigail Clarke-Sayer (Warren Berry); Erwin Byrd (Dave Sims); Margaret Byrd (Judson Bledsoe) and nephew John H. Byrd III (Vanessa Cram). She is also survived by their children, Ms. Clarke's great nieces and nephews: Margot and Theodore Wade; Owen Berry; Harry and Anne Sims; Maisie, Reece and Curren Bledsoe; and Joe and Ben Byrd.

Susan Clarke was born on December 19, 1945 in Montgomery, Alabama. She is predeceased by her parents John C and Carolyn M Clarke and by her older sister Carolyn L Clarke. Ms. Clarke attended Montgomery public schools, graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 1964. She attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA graduating in the class of 1968. Later Ms. Clarke obtained a MA in Teaching from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Ms. Clarke lived a full and active life in Atlanta. By the mid 1970's, after a brief stint working with young folks, Susan found her true calling: "the Christmas business." For most of her professional life, Susan worked at AmericasMart in various capacities as showroom manager and regional manager with companies such as Sylvestri and Villeroy & Boch, among others. After many years juggling showroom responsibilities with sales trips across the Southeast US, Susan moved on to join the team at the Atlanta Botanical Garden where she managed their visitor center and gift shop. An avid gardener herself, Susan enjoyed being in the mix at the Botanical Garden with their fun and imaginative events such as Chihuly's first exhibit and installation in 2004. Ready to downsize her work life, in 2008, Susan returned to Agnes Scott College to help in the Admissions Office greeting prospective studies and their families. She retired in 2011.

In retirement Susan, a gifted gardener, amped up projects in and around her sweet

Buckhead bungalow. Having been an avid runner and participant in the Atlanta July 4 Road Race for many years, she replaced that adventure with daily walks around her beautiful neighborhood often with dearest friends from college days. Susan Clarke had a full and rich life in her beloved Atlanta until her struggle with early onset dementia finally necessitated her move in October 2016 to Asheville, North Carolina to live nearby her family.

On Saturday, July 20 at 11:00 AM there will be an internment service for Susan Ann Clarke in the Garth of the Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC.

On Saturday, August 10 at 3:00 PM there will be a celebration of her life at Agnes Scott College, Decatur GA.

In gratitude for, and to memorialize, the wonderful life of Susan Ann Clarke, our family has selected two remarkable projects for your consideration:

At The River: Profiles in Quiet Courage, a documentary film recognizing Deep South Presbyterian ministers who often at great risk to themselves and their families championed the civil rights movement. Tax deductible contributions may be made to At the River c/o Auburn Theological Seminary, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10115.

MemoryCare is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide specialized medical care to older adults with cognitive impairment; to support caregivers with education, counseling and improved access to services; and to provide community education. Tax deductible contributions may be made to MemoryCare at 100 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville NC 28803 or online at [memorycare.org](http://memorycare.org).

Morris Funeral & Cremation Service, Asheville, NC is in charge of arrangements.  
[www.morrisfamilycaregroup.com](http://www.morrisfamilycaregroup.com)

# Comments

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“ Ellen, there is no reason for you to remember me, but I and my parents (Ben and Eleanor Mabson) lived next door to your family on Gilmer Avenue in the 1950's. I was a teenager at the time, but I well remember the three precious girls who lived next door. I was especially fond of your mother. I had time to get to know Carolyn better when she first came to Atlanta in the 1960's. I am saddened to learn of Susan's death, and send condolences to you and your family

Mary Elizabeth Mabson Furnald

Mary Elizabeth Furnald - July 15 at 01:01 PM