



Katherine Cole Rorison

May 7, 1925 - February 15, 2020

A life well lived, Katherine (Kat) Cole Rorison passed peacefully on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Deerfield Retirement Community following a brief illness. She was 94.

A native of Greensboro, NC, Kat was born May 7, 1925 to the late Dr. Walter Francis Cole and Annie Wharton Cole. She received a Bachelors of Arts degree from Women's College (now UNC-G) and a Master's Degree from Columbia University, NY, in 1948. She returned to Greensboro where she met her husband, Brainard Blanton Rorison. They moved to his hometown, Asheville, after their marriage in 1950.

Kat spent years advocating for her community in a variety of organizations including the local boards of the YWCA, the Junior League, the Children's Welfare League, the Asheville Community Theater, Asheville Day Nursery and the First Presbyterian Church. She served on state and national boards for the Children's Home Society, UNC-G Alumni Association and the national YWCA Board in the 1950s. She was a member of Women for Women of the WNC Community Foundation, the Colonial Dames and the Biltmore Forest Country Club. She led with an open mind and accepting heart.

Kat loved travel, epic family beach vacations, swimming, reading, genealogy, duplicate and social bridge, and gin martinis "on the rocks." In life, she found

peace in her faith, and joy forging deeper relationships with each of her children, grandchildren, and friends. Her family will always appreciate her graciousness, sense of humor, tolerance, pragmatism, and generosity. She had “no filter” when she told us what she thought, but it was her natural ability to relate to everyone in a personal way that endeared us to her. Hard of hearing, even with hearing aids, she was stoic in the quiet, but “lit up” when someone she recognized entered the room. She especially enjoyed a sunset, open fire and cocktails and grilled steaks with family at her home on Town Mountain.

Kat’s husband of 50 years, Brainard, preceded her in death in 2000, as well as her brother Watt Cole and sister Sis Scheck. She is survived by her three daughters; Katherine Soderquist, Betty Bargerstock (Andy), and Peggy Powers (Garry), Grandchildren Conner Soderquist (Leah), Kate S Taylor (Justin), Caroline B Moretz (Derek), Cami B Mullenneaux (Mani), John Powers (Sarah), Michael Powers (Danielle) and Great-grandchildren Olivia, Leland, Taj, Ethan, Heidi, Sean and Braxton and her nieces Anne Boyd and Kay McVey (Ed) three great nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the loving and dedicated staff in Assisted Living at Deerfield, the Care Partner Hospice team at Deerfield, the attentive caregivers from Bright-Star HealthCare, and her personal assistant, Priscilla Gentry for preserving her dignity the last days.

A remembrance service will be held at the Deerfield Healthcare Chapel at 10:00, Friday, March 6, 2020. A memorial service will be held at St. Giles Chapel at Deerfield on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 11:00 with a lunch reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Deerfield Charitable Foundation, Scholarship Fund, 1617 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803,

the Children's Welfare League, PO Box 15425, Asheville, NC 28813, or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Previous Events

Time of Remembrance

MAR 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Chapel of Skilled Care at Deerfield
1617 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Celebration of Life

MAR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Giles Chapel of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community
1617 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803
<http://www.deerfieldwnc.org/st-giles-chapel>

Tribute Wall



“ *Katherine Cole Rorison*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of the loss of someone who has meant so much to so many.*

Carolyn Jones - March 02, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ *I am so sad to hear this news. When I look back on my childhood, I will always remember your mother as being one of the kindest mothers on earth. I am so sorry for your loss. She will always live in my heart and yours forever. Laura Lentjes Tyor*

Laura Tyor - February 21, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ *Dearest Daughters of Kat,*

I'm so sorry to hear about your mom. I remember the last time I saw her at the house we stayed in for Frank's wedding. She looked the same as I remembered, and was just as sharp and quick witted as ever. She and your dad were such special people from my childhood.

with love, Lynn Henson

Lynn - February 20, 2020 at 12:18 PM

TM

“ *Katherine, Betty and Peggy,
I was saddened to learn of your Mother's passing. She was a wonderful woman and very tolerant and loving of many of us growing up. Please know I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.*
Tommy McMahon

Tom McMahon - February 20, 2020 at 06:24 AM

KD

Katherine, Betty and Peggy,

I am so sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. I feel that she was a second Mom to me growing up, and she sure made my life very enjoyable. I loved staying at your home. i often was only suppose to stay one night but it usually turned into three!! i was thinking of all my "firsts" there - coffee and peppermint ice cream together - 1st Boy/Girl Party!,- sending my Christmas List to Santa in your fireplace - playing on the rope swing,- giving rocks to the dog next door! - eating chicken tetrazzini - Brainard teaching me how to play pool - visiting LaLa and the list goes on and on...Those were wonderful times for me and your Mom was always chauffeuring us everywhere. I would love to know how many miles she drove back then! She was the "energizer bunny" and was always on the go!! I know she will be greatly missed. I lost my Mom Christmas Eve so I feel your pain. But, we were so Blessed to have them with us for such a long time. They were tired and needed to rest. I will always cherish our friendships!

Love Always,

Kay Blanton Davis

Kay Blanton Davis - February 20, 2020 at 11:21 PM