



Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler

September 2, 1924 - March 13, 2014

Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler died, Thursday, March 13, 2014, at Brooks-Howell Home. Born September 2, 1924, she was a native of Chapel Hill, NC and the daughter of the late Carl Thomas and Margaret Whitsett Durham. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Williard "Bill" Mangus Sessler, and an infant daughter.

She studied at Women's College of Greensboro and worked in the Office of Admissions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sue and Bill moved to Asheville in 1950. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church where she served as a teacher, deacon, elder, Stephen Minister and was the recipient of a life membership in Presbyterian Women (PCUSA). A lifelong volunteer, she gave her time and effort to her children's schools, her church, Mission Hospital, Brooks-Howell Home and various civic groups. A natural caregiver, she was devoted in using that gift in caring for family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Mark Sessler and his wife Ann of Charlotte, Peggy Swann and her husband Jerry of Anderson, SC, and Susan Sessler of Charlotte; grandchildren, Brian Swann, Valerie Swann, Elizabeth Sessler, Mary Ayala and husband Victor, and Bill Sessler; sisters, Peggy Wall of Greenville, SC and Anne Novak and husband Bob of Durham, NC. She was also preceded in death by a sister Celia Murray and brother Carl Durham.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Dr. Mark Burnham officiating. The family will receive friends following the service in the Wallace Foyer.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 40 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801; Brooks-Howell Home, 266 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801; or charity of one's choice.

Cemetery Details

Memory Wall at First Presbyterian Church Asheville

40 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.fpcasheville.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family for your loss.ACTS24:15.*

F.H. - April 15, 2014 at 06:54 AM



“ *I expect the very stones in First Presbyterian Church to weep because Sue is gone. So many pictures of her in that church... She and Jane Johnson cooking family night suppers.She was in and of all committees having to do with the Life of the church,pouring out love to all ...that was her gift. And ended up as ours. She is the only woman. person, lover of God i know that prayed over the daily newspaper. An awesome task. In some of my worse moments, I'd remember this. it gave me great comfort. I know she missed Bill .I join my grief and tears for herwith yours.
Love, Gwenda LedBetter*

Gwenda LedBetter - March 22, 2014 at 08:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler.*



March 21, 2014 at 01:54 PM

EF

“ I want to express my condolences to all of you. Your Mom was such a giving woman and I enjoyed seeing her at early service on Sundays. I regret that I can not attend the funeral as we have made plans to visit my son for his birthday. Your family is in our prayers.
Emilie Freeman

Emilie Freeman - March 20, 2014 at 04:51 PM

SJ

“ When someone we love dies, it leaves a hole in our hearts. This sorrow was felt by Jesus, Mary and Martha when Lazarus their brother died. Jesus said to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life, He that exercises faith in me even though he dies, will come to life. Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Then he proceeded to resurrect Lazarus and he promises to resurrect all those in the memorial tombs. Please read John 5:28,29 in your Bible and may this hope bring your family comfort.

Sharon Johnson - March 20, 2014 at 01:50 PM

DG

“ You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Sessler was like a second Mom to me during my teenage years. She had a great calming affect on me when I was so upset. A great person that has gone to be a perfect angel in heaven. You were blessed to have such a great person as a Mom which I am sure you all know. She will be missed on earth but a great angel in heaven. Love to you all.
Deborah Hill Griggs

Deborah Griggs - March 19, 2014 at 06:31 PM

GP

“ To Sue Sessler's Family, especially Susan:

It is with smiles and deep appreciation that I and my family remember Sue.. Through many years of trips, steaming pools, active teenagers, working with her in the parents' group was a joy. Thank you, God, for the life of Sue Sessler.

With love and sincerest sympathy from Grace and all the Pless Family

Grace Pless - March 19, 2014 at 09:23 AM

JB

“ June Brookshire lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler



June Brookshire - March 18, 2014 at 02:59 PM

CC

*Susan, Mark, and Peggy,
You are in my prayers as you mourn the passing of your mom. She was dear to me as well as to many others. May God give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.
June Muse Brookshire*

Cheryl Cooke - March 18, 2014 at 03:04 PM

CC

*When we were growing up your parents were always some of the best. I know your many wonderful memories of them will always comfort you. We are so glad to have known them.
Cheryl and Billy Cooke*

Cheryl Cooke - March 18, 2014 at 03:08 PM

DB

“ *Dottie Burge Braswell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler*



Dottie Burge Braswell - March 17, 2014 at 10:00 PM

KM

“ *Dear Susan & Family: We are so sad to learn of your loss. I had the pleasure of meeting your mother during my years as the Aquatic Director of the Greenville YMCA and at any number of our great water polo matches.*

God be with your mother and your family at this difficult time .

Sincerely,

Ken McGartlin, President

International Aquatic & Sports Foundation, Inc.

Ken McGartlin - March 17, 2014 at 10:21 AM

PH

“ *I regret being unable to personally visit the family and express my sympathy and condolences but John and I will not return to Asheville for awhile. Sue was a dear friend and her friendship meant so much to me. I will have many fond memories of our relationship and she will be missed greatly.*

Peggy Hazlehurst

Peggy Hazlehurst - March 17, 2014 at 08:17 AM

JE

“ *Jeanne lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler*



jeanne - March 16, 2014 at 03:52 PM

KT

“ *KIM TWEED lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary "Sue" Durham Sessler*



KIM TWEED - March 16, 2014 at 02:20 PM

KT

“ *I just wanted in Sues family how much Sue meant to me. I have none Sue since a child but as I grew up I became her hairdresser. We had so many good times she3 was like apart of my family,before she knew what was going she was in major PAIN but she had to get that perm and she did!!! then when she became so sick i went over to Brooks Howell and cut her hair and we talked and before i Left she said Kim i Am tired and I said Sue i dont want to see you go and she said i wannd go home and be with Bil,i i myself was beimg selfish and i know she will always be with us. She was a class act and will be missed by many. When i was leaving she said Kim I love you and stop that crying and I told her I LOVED HER, I probaly want be able to make the service I work that day but my PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL*

KIM TWEED - March 16, 2014 at 02:18 PM