



Mr. Ralph Davenport Morris Jr.

June 23, 1927 - January 17, 2012

Ralph Davenport Morris, Jr., age 84, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at his Asheville home.

A veteran of the US Army Air Corp and US Navy, Ralph was born on June 23, 1927 in Rock Hill, South Carolina and was the son of the late Ralph Davenport Morris, Sr. and Annie Jo Peterson Morris. He graduated from Lee H. Edwards High School in 1944 and earned a B.S. in Commerce from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1949. That year, he began his lifelong career at Stuart Nye Hand Wrought Jewelry. Ralph was dedicated to his business and considered his employees like family

With intellect and wit, Ralph served his community throughout his life. He was given the Distinguished Service Award by the Asheville Jaycees in 1959. He was a member of the Asheville Transit Authority Board (1969-1971), Asheville Rotary Club (President 1959-1960), Asheville City Council (1971-1981, Vice-Mayor 1979-1981), Asheville Water Authority Board (Chairman, 1981-1991), ABC Board (Chairman, 1997-2002), and First Step Farm Board since 1979. Ralph served on the board of the Southern Highland Craft Guild in the late sixties, and was named a Life Member in 2007.

When Ralph finished his work on the city council, Barbara Blake of the Asheville Citizen-Times wrote, "Morris' matter-of-fact demeanor rarely

cracked. When controversies raged, heads would turn toward the silver-haired councilman who had an anecdote for every crisis, a solution for every dilemma. At the very least, Morris could be counted on to provoke a chuckle regardless of the seriousness of the issue, to offer levity as an alternative to panic.”

Ralph carried a message of hope and recovery as a volunteer at Craggy Prison from 1988-2010.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Judy Bogle Morris; sons Ralph D. Morris, III, of Greensboro, John Morris and wife Linda of Cary, Joe Morris and wife Leslie of Asheville; grandchildren Meghan, Christopher, Benjamin, Jessica, Jack and Michael. He is also survived by the mother of his children, Betty F. Morris.

A graveside service will be held 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Riverside Cemetery followed by a memorial service at 11:00 AM at Grace Episcopal Church, 871 Merrimon Avenue. The Rev. Gary Coffey will officiate. A gathering for family and friends will begin at 12:30 PM at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of choice.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Previous Events

Service

JAN 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

Riverside Cemetery
53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Service

JAN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church
871 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804
graceparish@bellsouth.net
<http://graceepiscopalchurch.us/>

Visitation

JAN 21. 12:30 PM (ET)

Chapel of Morris Funeral Home
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://morrisfamilycare.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ralph Davenport Morris Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Teresa Zethof lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Davenport Morris Jr.*



Teresa Zethof - February 07, 2012 at 04:48 PM



“ *My greatest sympathy to Judy and all the family, his light will shine on.....Much Love Teresa Z. WFSF*

Teresa Zethof - February 07, 2012 at 04:46 PM



“ *Judy,
We send you thoughts of love and caring. You are a special person to us. We hope you find peace from the memories you have of your life with Ralph. Asheville is a better place because of all the wonderful things Ralph contributed to this community.
Ted Seitz & Martha Marshall*

Martha Marshall - January 21, 2012 at 10:27 PM

HM

“ *To Leslie Morris:
Leslie, I was sorry to read your Dad's obituary this morning in the paper. My husband Andy's mother passed away unexpectedly December 17th. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Your Father sounds like he was quite a dynamic man.
Holly Strauss
(Vetust)*

Holly Strauss (friend of Leslie Morris) - January 21, 2012 at 08:49 AM

FC

“ *Judy,
I am deeply saddened by your loss. Please accept my condolences. Ralph was such a kind and thoughtful person.

Your in my prayers,

Frank Collins*

Frank Collins - January 20, 2012 at 11:49 AM

ST

“ *I'll always remember Ralph for his gentle wit and kind face. Judy, my prayers are with you and the family. I can't be at the service due to child care obligations.*

Suzanne Tourtillott - January 19, 2012 at 02:58 PM

NM

so sorry for your loss, judy. my thoughts and prayers are with you and ralph's family as you travel through this difficult time.

nikki marmo - January 20, 2012 at 10:36 AM

JB

“ Judy...may peace and love fill your life

james barr - January 19, 2012 at 11:00 AM

JB

“ James Barr sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Davenport Morris Jr.



james barr - January 19, 2012 at 10:59 AM

DO

*Hi Judy,
First I want to apologize for not being at any of the services for Ralph.
But I had a severe asthma attack starting last Thursday and been on oxygen 24/7 since then as well as a brush with vertigo. But I do apologize.
Doug O.*

Doug. Obermiller - January 21, 2012 at 11:39 AM