



Shirley Jean Sharpe

January 9, 1930 - February 8, 2024

Shirley H. Sharpe, 94, died peacefully on February 8th, 2024, at her home in Asheville. She was born January 9, 1930, in Davenport, Iowa, the daughter of Alvin and Doretta Hodoval.

Shirley grew up in Oxford Junction, Iowa. She completed her last year at Orlando Senior High School in 1947. Shirley moved to Chicago and completed nurses training at Wesley Memorial Hospital in 1951. She worked as a surgical nurse in Chicago and Cincinnati. Shirley met her husband, Dr. Eugene B. Sharpe, in the cafeteria at Wesley Memorial Hospital, and they were married on June 24, 1952, at First Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Shirley and Gene moved to Asheville in 1959. She became an avid Tar Heel Basketball fan. Shirley was the school bus, tailor, cook, gardener, and entertainment coordinator for her family. She enjoyed caring for her mother, husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and she touched many people's lives.

Shirley was one of the founding mothers of the Children's Health Museum, which became The Health Adventure. The Health Adventure was a fun and educational environment for children. It continued to educate the children of Western North Carolina for decades. Shirley remained active with the organization for many years, fundraising with the 'Fruitflies.'

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, after 56 years of marriage. Shirley is survived by her daughter, Linda Mitchell, and husband, Harvey of Asheville; sons, Richard of Colonial Beach, VA, and David of Asheville. She is also survived by six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: Cammie Peterson and sons, Reed and Oscar of Saratoga Springs, NY; Melissa Sharpe of Dallas, TX; Emily Mitchell and children, Able, Gene and Siena of Austin, TX; Mariah Sharpe and daughter, Marigold of Brunswick, ME; William Mitchell of Durham, NC and Kaddie Iammatteo of Bangor, ME.

A celebration of her life will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Morris Funeral & Cremation Care, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville.

Donations can be made in her memory to Manna Foodbank or your favorite charity.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care

304 Merrimon Ave.

Asheville, NC 28801

(828) 252-1821

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<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Carol H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Jean Sharpe.

Carol H. - June 29, 2024 at 08:51 AM

DB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I would dare to try to count how many hours I was privileged to spend with Shirley. We volunteered together for years on the Buncombe County Medical Auxiliary Board; The Children's Health Museum (through 4 moves) until it became The Health Adventure; Fruit Flies; Lunches for the Auxiliary; and on and on. She was always willing to step up to help in any way. A woman full of grace and intelligence. Holding the family in my heart. Diana Bilbrey

Diana Bilbrey - June 24, 2024 at 09:55 AM