



Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shirley

May 21, 1927 - June 27, 2022

Mary Elizabeth Slade Shirley, 95, of Columbia, died on Monday, June 27, 2022. Born in Reading, England, on May 21, 1927, she was a daughter of the late Ernest Arthur and Edith Ellen Wyatt Slade.

She was an only child but was blessed with many aunts, uncles, grandparents & cousins. The family was hugely impacted by WWII as it was indeed the reason that she met her former husband. She met and married her husband after he was called to serve at Greenham Common Airbase near her hometown of Redding. She was married in 1944 in Reading and her oldest child, Graham was born in 1945. Following the end of the war, she and her son, Graham boarded the USS Argentina ship sponsored by the US Military to bring English war brides to the USA. They departed Southampton late January 1946 arriving in Ellis Island on February 4. Very much alone, they boarded a train bound for Columbia, SC. Her life here did not get off to an easy start but she persevered. Her mother immigrated to the USA in March of 1947 and together they were great providers and gave a loving home for their children to grow up in. She worked at night and her mother during the day to ensure that all were taken care of. Following a knock at her door from the Pastor of Eau Claire Presbyterian Church, she attended and later became a member where she would spend the rest of her life. She was very active in the church until her death. She enjoyed a long relationship with Angelo's Zesto where she worked for 44 years. Her church and faith meant everything to her. In 1978 she returned to England taking her two grandsons and daughter-in-law along to meet their family. She was a very generous person and helped many people during her life especially other immigrants.

She is survived by her sons, Graham Shirley, of Columbia, SC, David Shirley (Wendy), of Blythewood, SC, and Barry Shirley (Judi), of Columbia; grandson, Robert Shirley (Carrie), of Gilbert, SC; great-grandchildren, Taylor Shirley, Savannah Shirley, and Grayson Shirley, all of Gilbert, SC. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her grandson, David Timothy Shirley.

The funeral service for Mrs. Shirley will be held at 11 o'clock, Saturday, July 2nd, at Eau

Claire Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Adam Shields officiating. Burial will follow the service in Greenlawn Memorial Park. The family will receive friends prior to the service at the church beginning at 10 o'clock. Shives Funeral Home is assisting the family.

The family would like to acknowledge very important people in her life; her very first American friend, Evelyn Scott who has remained a lifelong friend. The family would also like to thank Hands & Hearts for providing daily caretakers for mother during her dementia. Heather Land, Mrs. V and Barbara, Prisma Health Hospice, and her son, Graham who all provided daily love and tender care. The family would also like to thank the Eau Claire Community for the lovely comments and support.

Memorial donations may be made to Eau Claire Presbyterian Church, 629 Wildwood Ave, Columbia, SC 29203.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Park

845 Leesburg Road
Columbia, SC 29209

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Eau Claire Presbyterian Church
629 Wildwood Avenue
Columbia, SC 29203

Funeral Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Eau Claire Presbyterian Church
629 Wildwood Avenue
Columbia, SC 29203

Tribute Wall



“ *Our sincerest condolences to Ms.Mary's family and friends. Husband and I have very fond memories of her at Zesto's!! Her boys and grands should be honored and proud having Ms.Mary as their Mom and Grandmother!!*

Peggy Craft - July 02 at 12:44 PM

PP

“ *Mrs. Mary was a faithful servant of her Lord Jesus.*

Paul & Alice Poynor - July 01 at 02:49 PM

MM

“ *I remember what a good friend she was to my grandmother, Marion Kirkland DeCarrico!*

What an amazing life!

Margaret DeCarrico Morris

margaret DeCarrico Morris - July 01 at 12:06 PM

JH

“ *Sending sympathy to all who loved Mrs. Shirley. I enjoyed reading the obituary telling of the lovely life she lived. I am so happy to hear how much the Eau Claire Presbyterian Church family meant to her as it did to my family too. My parents, J.W. and Virginia Derrick, spent their adult life worshiping there also. It was a loving church for us to grow up in. May God's love and strength surround her loved ones now as they rejoice in assurance of her salvation. My grandfather, Dr. R.K. Timmons, was the minister in "the little brown church" so many years ago.*

jean Derrick Holcomb - July 01 at 08:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shirley.*



June 30 at 08:50 PM

MD

“ To Mrs. Shirley family we send our deepest condolences. Mrs Shirley was a loving and caring woman. May she Rest In Peace. Sleep well sweet Angel. The Draft Family 100 Duke Avenue.



Martha Draft - June 30 at 05:59 PM

JS

“ Very sorry to hear about Mrs Shirley’s passing, but I’m happy to know she’s with the Lord.

Jeff Shealy - June 30 at 08:36 AM

HD

“ My brother and I live in Eau Claire and when you miss a Shirley from the time I played baseball in a little league my brother attended kindergarten at the church and Mrs Shirley was his teacher that was 63 years ago. She was always a very gracious lady and a good Christian woman We will always remember her I pray that the good Lord will bless all of her children and grandchildren



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Howard Day - June 29 at 08:22 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss, but so happy she had a long life. I have always thought about her since she retired from Zesto. I knew her from Mrs Loner that went to church and I went to bible school at her church. I always love to see her, I loved the way she talked. Prayers and hugs for your family. She is heavens gain. Love Always Debbie Loner Sloan.

Deborah Sloan - June 29 at 11:28 AM

AS

“ Wow she was the heart beat of Eau Claire when I was a child. Lucky to be able to walk to Angelo's. After softball games and after school. Love her she will forever be in our hearts

Alma Sharpe - June 29 at 09:51 AM

MR

“ I remember Mary Shirley with love. She and my parents, James and Lillian Hope, were special friends at Eau Claire Presbyterian Church. My prayers are with the family. Sincerely, Myra Hope (White) Roulette

Myra Hope Roulette - June 29 at 09:13 AM

MM

“ I grew up in the "Eau Claire Triangle"(Main St., Monticello Rd., and Columbia College Dr. form the triangle) It was my paper route from the time I was 10 until I was 13. (1966 to 1970) Angelo's was at the point of the triangle and every kid from the triangle knew Ms. Shirley. She was the kindest lady that I ever met. Those of us kids from the triangle who played little league baseball and softball across the street would rally at Angelo's after every victory for a shake or cherry coke. I remember Ms. Shirley's patience and kindness as we swarmed her "to go" window celebrating.

Every day I would get extra newspapers to sell for a dime apiece to the fire station behind Angelo's and to Angelo's patrons and immediately turn my extra dimes into burger or fries and a coke. I always made sure that I waited for Ms. Shirley to take my order because she always put cherries in my coke for no extra charge.

Over the years I would stop back by and see her and she would remember me. I think initially she was just being gracious.

Then one day I stopped in and she was gone. She had retired. And even though today I still stop by for chicken or burger when I'm in town it is not the same.

My brother David, who now lives in Eau Claire, ran into her as she was visiting her friends at Angelo's about a year ago. He snapped a photo and said she was still her delightful self.

Ms. Shirley, we are going to miss you. You were a legend!

Michael McGarrigle - June 28 at 09:38 PM

RA

“ During the mid 60s, Mary worked for my mother, Mary Dixon, at the original location of the Celebrity Supper Club. She was a great friend and loved by all. I personally thank God for having time with her. Renda Dixon Allen.

Renda Dixon Allen - June 28 at 05:33 PM

LH

“ My condolences to Ms. Shirley family. I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Shirley at Angelo Zesto, very nice person. She will definitely be missed.

LaShaun Hinton

LaShaun Hinton - June 28 at 03:29 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shirley.*



June 28 at 03:05 PM

MD

“ *Sorry to hear of Ms. Shirley passing. I first met her when I was a teenager as I grew older I worked with her for 12 years at Angelo's Zesto she was the kindest, sweetest person I know everyone loved Ms. Shirley she made the best pound cake I ever taste. to know her is to love her. she will truly be missed.*
Mae Davis

Mae Davis - June 28 at 02:55 PM

WL

“ *I have been blessed to have Mary as my mother in law and her son, David, as my husband. Mary was a kind and generous lady. I will miss her.*

Wendy Luce - June 28 at 02:29 PM

MS

“ *So sorry to hear about Ms. Shirley's passing today. The employees & customers always ask about her at Angelos Zesto where she worked over 40 years! She will be greatly missed. She had the best pound cake recipe ever! Mark Sills of Angelo's Zesto.*

Mark Sills - June 27 at 10:24 PM

JF

“ *She was love by her family she was a lovey lady she will be missed but she is with the Lord now .by Joseph Fulmer*

Joseph Fulmer - June 27 at 02:56 PM