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Alice Jane Bowers Greene

Oct. 29, 1935 - Jan. 5, 2025

Alice Jane Bowers Greene, 89, of Grace Ridge, Morganton, NC, died Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Born in Morganton, NC on October 29, 1935, she was the only child of the late Tuxie D. Bowers and Myrtle Berry Bowers.

She graduated from Morganton High School in 1954 and continued her education at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jane was a homemaker for her family, community volunteer and an officer of Bowers-Greene Motor Co Inc., the business her parents started.

A member of First United Methodist Church where she served as a 3rd grade Sunday School Teacher, Women's Circle Chairman and member of the Administrative Board. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 8 years, Brownie, Junior, Cadet and Senior to a group of girls who gave her the name "Mama Jane" which is the endearing name she is called by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A charter member of the Quaker Meadows Garden Club, The Morganton Service League and a volunteer teacher at Mountain View Play School. While a member of the Junior Women's Club Jane was the chairperson of the Children's Home Society of North Carolina. During this time

the chairperson of the Children's Home Society of North Carolina. During this time, the club first began relaying babies from Asheville to Greensboro. Jane enjoyed this so much, she took several infants all the way to Greensboro rather than relay them through Statesville.

Jane served 20 years on the Board of Directors of Southmountain Children's Homes, twice as chairperson. Jane also served on the Burke County Morehead Selection Committee.

Jane was recognized in 1969 as one of Morganton's Outstanding Young Women of America for her efforts to help others.

Providing a loving home extended far beyond her husband, John, children Teresa and Johnny. Upon hearing the need for a summer foster family for a 10-year boy who was totally deaf and blind who resided at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston MA "Mama Jane" commissioned her home and family in Morganton as Gene's home. Jane was effortless in making the two summers Gene spent in Morganton a highlight being part of a loving family and an opportunity far different than his institutional life.

Jane will always be remembered for her passion for work in her yard or even anyone else's that allowed her. Day lilies, azaleas, redbud and dogwoods were among her favorites. She found a purpose for everything, each stone, volunteer seedlings, and the last bucket of mulch.

All of her grandchildren enjoyed sharing their special memories of time spent at her Little Red Schoolhouse in Blowing Rock. Debating if an oatmeal cookie could be improved by toasting, drinking Russian tea, or enjoyment of building puzzles from beginner toddlers to 1000-piece jigsaws.

Alice is survived by her husband, John D. Greene, Sr.; daughter, Teresa Greene Norman (Dan); son, John D. Greene, Jr. (Connie); grandchildren, Ashley N. Smith (Jeff), Lydia N. DuMont (Tyler), James R. "Jim Bob" Norman (Kenia), Ben C. Norman (Tiffany); Haley Marie G. Williams (Drew); and Kerri G. Terry (John Paul); great-grandchildren, Jacob, Daniel, Cam, Lilah, Freedom, Silas, Bennett, Weston, Evelyn Jane, Andrew Marie (Annie), John Anderson, and Miles Drew.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, January 20, 2025 at First United Methodist Church in Morganton. The family will receive friends in the fellowship hall of the church following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Southmountain Children and Family Services (southmountain.org/donate) or to First United Methodist Church's Building Preservation Fund (morgantonfumc.org/give).

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

—Elise Jones

I was so sorry to hear of Jane's passing. She was always such a lovely presence in this world. I remember walking down the aisle of Wait Chapel at Wake Forest University as I was graduating from law school, searching for familiar faces in the crowd. I was beginning to lose hope I would see any, but then I saw Jane. She was there near the aisle, smiling her big smile and gave me a small wave. I knew then that my family was there and I had their support and love. I will always remember that smile of hers -- it was always such a comfort to me and I am certain it was for others as well. My prayers and sympathy to John, Johnnie, Connie, Teresa, Dan, and all of the grands and great grands who will miss Mama Jane sorely. You are on my heart today.

—Adair Clarke



—Lana Reavis Smith

It was a great honor to work under the guidance & support of Jane while she served on our Board at Southmountain. She truly loved the agency & our mission but most of all the children & families we served. It was an even greater honor,

however, to be her friend. Janet & I have you all in our prayers. Chris Jernigan

—Chris Jernigan

We are sending our thoughts and prayers to everyone during this sorrowful time. "Guzzer" and I, both, have fond memories of Miss Jane from childhood. May the memory of such a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother bring you comfort and peace in the days ahead. with love, Beth and Iverson Riddle

—Beth & Iverson Riddle

John, Teresa, Johnny, and family, I am so sad to hear about Jane and sorry that you are navigating this huge loss. I will always remember her warmth and kindness, infectious laugh, and sending the best birthday cards when I was growing up. She had a tremendous heart so it always struck me as fitting that a single child went on to have such a large family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

—Deirdre Staton



I'm so thankful I got to know Mrs. Greene just a little. What a wonderful testimony of a life well-lived. May Mr. Greene and the family always cherish these precious memories!

—Amy Dixon



—Danette Steelman-Bridges

It was an honor to get to know Ms. Jane. The love that she and John showed to

each other would make anyone get the warm fuzzy feeling inside. My heart goes out to the family, but remember Gods promise you will see her again someday. She is in heaven planting her own garden to share.

—Danielle Southard

Dearest “Big John”, Johnny and Teresa, I have so many fond memories and so much love for you folks…”Big John” and Jane are present in some of my earliest memories of living in Chapel Hill. Jane was the kindest and sweetest lady and she was present in so many facets of my young years - the BEST Brownie and Girl Scout leader, never making anything seem tedious. And such a dear friend to my mother…I know Mom will greet her with a warm hug and loving smile - Dad, too. Please know you are all in my heart and prayers…wishing Jane peace, light and love in her journey. Love, “Rooney”

—Ruth Riddle Jones

To: The Greene Family My Maternal Grandfather, Rev. James Burton Reid, was the Principal/Teacher of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" in Blowing Rock. When there was an article about it in The News Herald, I contacted Mrs. Greene to ask about the location of it, as my husband and I had looked for it, not knowing exactly where it was. Not only did she tell me where it was, but came to my office one day with a written note telling me directions to it and telling me the story of how you all had bought and restored it. She was such a beautiful, kind, and endearing woman. I actually found her note just a few weeks ago going through some "treasures" I have. I'm so glad to read how much the schoolhouse meant to your family. My Papa Reid passed away at age 36 from typhoid fever, two months before my Mother, Jimmie Burton Reid Smith, his youngest child, was born. So, the picture our family has of him, with his students in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse is also a "treasure", as was your wife, Mother, and Grandmother., a Treasure. May God bless and keep you in your great loss. My sincere condolences, Judy Smith Norville.

—Judy Norville

Tom and I were blessed to spend time with Jane and John at NCADA events. She was such a lovely lady. John is such a kindhearted dear man. I am so sorry for his loss as well as the entire family. God bless everyone. We love you, Lynn Burton

—Lynn Burton



Aunt Jane, May God welcome you into his loving arms as a good and faithful servant. Thank you for the love and care you extended to me and my family through the years. I love you.

—Clarke Staton

—Susan Moses

John, Johnny, Connie, and Family, All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Our family has known your family for a lot of years. Tommy worked at the dealership in Morganton years ago and quickly realized that Mrs. Greene was a gracious, special lady with a heart of gold. All of the family has a very special place in our hearts. Thoughts, prayers and love to all of you during this time of loss.

—Phyllis Crump and Fanily

Family, I am so sorry to hear about this. I often remember their attending the summer basketball tournaments in Burke County. And the times of feasting at Chick Filet In-between games. Please know, Heaven is an even better place now. As the Hopper's song says, It's Shoutin Time in Heaven. Much love to all.

—Dave Mahan

Jane was such a lovely person to know- always lively and conversational! On the occasions we met, I enjoyed talking with her so much. Thoughts and prayers to

occasions we met, I enjoyed talking with her so much. Thoughts and prayers to John and family...

—Laura McCoy

I remember Mrs. Jane Greene as a bright light, loving her family..I remember her

working in her flowers at the dealership...she was a very kind lady...I am so sorry for your loss..love Ron and Elizabeth Smith

—Elizabeth P Smith

We are so saddened for your loss. Our sincerest of condolences are with all of you. Scott Kirk and family

—James Scott Kirk

I loved Jane like a sister. With our mothers being identical twins, we were half sisters genetically. I had a first-time-ever experience around 2:00 a.m. on January 5, I woke up with tears rolling down my cheeks, I was not sad or upset. I had no sense of having dreamed anything, Yet the calm tears continued. When John phoned me he said Jane had passed arounf 2:00 a.m. I immediately knew Jane had stopped by to tell me goodbye. I did no weeping then. I cried hard off and on the rest of the morning. I CRIED FOR MYSELF BUT KNEW SHE WAS AT PEACE! GOODBYE, MY SISTER. I'LL SEE YOU LATER! MUCH LOVE, PHILECTA

—Philecta Clarke Staton

Our deepest condolences to the entire family. May God bless her and provide the family with patience at this difficult time. The Tashakkori's

—Rahman and Sherry Tashakkori



Greene Family So sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs Greene. She rest now in the arms of God. Prayers



—Roger Austin Hart