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Geraldine "Gerry" Elizabeth Lee

May 19, 1942 - Aug. 5, 2023

Geraldine "Gerry" Elizabeth Lee, 81, of Morganton, NC passed away on August 5, 2023 after an extended illness. She was preceded in death by her mother, Eloise Mulkey Rhyne; father, Fred William Hayes; step-father, Earl Rhyne; and beloved younger brother, Fred Eugene Hayes.

Geraldine is survived by her husband, Robert "Bob" Edward Lee; her only son, Dennis Lee (Patricia) of Morganton; and her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, niece, and nephews.

Gerry and Bob, as they were known to friends and family, met in Chicago, IL and enjoyed 55 years of marriage. Gerry grew up in Gastonia, NC before moving to Chicago. There she enjoyed a successful career in restaurant and hospitality management before leaving the industry to pursue her role as a full-time mother and homemaker. Throughout her life, she continued to apply her passions for service, management and leadership beyond the home. She was honored with a lifetime membership in the State Parent Teacher Association for her decade long service and support of elementary education while raising her son on Long Island in New York.

After retiring to South Harwich, Massachusetts, she became an active member of Christ Church Episcopal assuming a variety of roles including service as Senior

Warden for the parish. She was also active in politics, supporting numerous candidates and campaigns at the local, state and federal levels.

Gerry and Bob relocated to Morganton NC in 2004. She enjoyed returning to her southern roots and enthusiastically embraced the opportunity be close to family. Gerry continued her journey of faith and service in Morganton as a dedicated and

active member of Grace Episcopal Church until her health declined. Yet, her favorite role was always being “Nana” to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who she loved dearly. Gerry, “Nana” and “Mom” is remembered for the love, commitment, tireless effort, and faith she shared with so many throughout her wonderful life.

A celebration of Gerry’s life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Grace Episcopal Church with Rev. Marshall Jolly officiating.

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

Tribute Wall



Dear Lee Family, The first time I met Gerry was at Grace Church, she was my friend from day one. She and I worked together for many years doing Sunday School. She loved all of the children so much. Always aware of their needs and sometimes a step ahead in helping out the children or their families. She was an Angel on earth. I will miss her dearly. I am thinking of you during this difficult time and sending prayers for God's comfort. Much Love, Tiffany

–Tiffany Poteat

I am so sorry for your loss.I will continue to keep all the family in prayer. May you find comfort and peace in the days ahead. God Bless. Judy Mcfalls/Meppa

–Judy Mcfalls



Deepest condolence for heavy hearts of family and friends. Gerry was a noble lady, a mentor and best of role models at Grace Episcopal Church, Morganton. Very loving and kind but, if Abby or Hardy even considered misbehavior, I would say, "Do you want me to tell Nana?" No, no, no. Much love to all, I cherish the memory of knowing such an incredible lady. I chose the candle of blue, as Gerry's beautiful blue eyes, always a shining light.

–Nancy Hasty

Dennis, Patty & family We hated to her of Gerrys passing. By reading this I know she had a good life & wonderful family. Never really knew her but I could see the love yall had for her & I know she loved you. Just remember all the memories you

shared & keep them close to your heart. God be with you the coming days. Love Richard & Debbie

—Debbi & Richard Ferrell

My sincere sympathy for the family.

—Judy Pearson