

**W. Trent Ragland Jr.**

RALEIGH - W. Trent Ragland, Jr., a leader in business, public service and philanthropy, died March 1, 2015 at Rex Hospital. He was 94 years old.

A graveside service was held at Oakwood Cemetery at 11:00, Saturday, March 7. The service will be followed by a reception at St. David's School Dining Hall, 3400 White Oak Road, Raleigh.

In his life as a successful business leader, active public servant and generous philanthropist, Trent Ragland was known and loved for his boundless energy, genial spirit and wit, keen intellect, modesty and compassion for those in need of support or a helping hand. He took his responsibilities as a citizen very seriously.

Mr. Ragland was born August 12, 1920 in Salisbury, NC, the son of the late William Trent and Alice McKenzie Ragland. He grew up in Raleigh where he attended public schools before attending high school at Woodberry Forest School in Virginia.

After attending his freshman year at Virginia Military Institute, he transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was graduated with a B.S. in Geology in 1941. At Chapel Hill, he was president of his fraternity Zeta Psi and Rex of the Order of Gingham.

Upon graduation, Mr. Ragland went to work for Superior Stone Company, which was founded in 1939 under the leadership of his father, William Trent Ragland, and uncle, Edmond Ragland. The beginning of World War II sent Trent Ragland, Jr. to the U.S. Navy where he served on the staff of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, and later he was graduated from the Post Graduate School at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mr. Ragland returned to Superior Stone Company in 1946 and became president at age 34, in 1954. Under his quiet, strong leadership, Superior Stone became a major producer of crushed stone and related products in the southeastern U.S. He continued as CEO of its successor companies for 23 years as he led Superior Stone into a merger with American Marietta Company in 1959. American Marietta merged with the Martin Company in 1961 to become Martin Marietta.

He served on the board of directors of American Marietta and Martin Marietta and, after stepping down as President, was Senior Vice President of Martin Marietta Aggregates for many years. Upon retirement, he was named Senior Vice President, Emeritus. He founded the NC Aggregates Association, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

An active man of wide-ranging interests, and a voracious reader, Mr. Ragland combined a far-ranging and successful business career with a remarkable record of public service and personal philanthropy. This one-time newspaper carrier boy who grew up in modest circumstances became a quiet-spoken business executive who moved easily among people and groups in all walks of life. His life reflected one who generously shared his time, talents and resources with others.

His many activities in public service involved more than 20 non-profit organizations and state government agencies. They include Chairman, The Independent College Fund of North Carolina (elected Honorary Life Member); Chairman, Peace College Board of Trustees (elected Honorary Life Member and received from Peace an Honorary Doctorate); Vice Chairman, Carolina Challenge and Board of Visitors, UNC-Chapel Hill; and member, NC Board of Conservation & Development.

Other positions were trustee, Rex Hospital, Raleigh; board member, Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust; board member, Atlantic & East Carolina Railroad and North Carolina Railroad; Vice President, Better Transportation for North Carolina; executive committee, United Way of Wake County; and President, Friends of the College Concert Association, NC State University. Additionally, he was a member of the North Caroliniana Society and a recipient of their award in 2004. He was honored by the News and Observer in 1963 as Tar Heel of the Week. In 1977 he served as President of the N.C. Citizens Association, now known as N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry. In 2012 he was awarded the P.G. Fox Compassionate Care Award from the P.G. Fox Society and Duke Raleigh Hospital.

In 1959 Mr. Ragland established the W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation. He quietly and effectively made generous contributions for over 55 years to many charitable and educational organizations and institutions in North Carolina and in the southeastern U.S. These included many involved in higher education, youth services, historic preservation, environmental protection, shelter and care of homeless, music, arts and culture. His generous gift of land made it possible for Raleigh to build a new Boys and Girls Club in 1977.

The William Trent Ragland Building at the Research Triangle Institute was named in honor of his late father. In 1971 Saint Mary's School named a classroom building in honor of his mother, Alice McKenzie Ragland, Class of 1914.

Trent Ragland established an Anna Wood Ragland Library Fund at UNC-Chapel Hill to honor his wife of 70 years (married in 1944), Anna Wood. Proceeds of the fund support the North Carolina Collection at the Wilson Library where the renowned Hayes Library is now located. The Hayes Library was originally at the home of Anna Wood's family in Edenton.

Later in life, in addition to their home in Raleigh,



Trent and Anna Ragland enjoyed a home at Roaring Gap, NC for summer months and at John's Island, FL for wintertime. As active residents in three communities, they belonged to many clubs and other organizations, including the Carolina Country Club, Raleigh; Roaring Gap Club, Roaring Gap (including a term as President); John's Island Club, John's Island; the Country Club of North Carolina, Pinehurst, NC; The Sphinx Club, The Circle Club, The Nine O'Clock Cotillion Club, The Carousel Club, The Terpsichorean Club, and The Hoover Syndicate, Raleigh; The Raleigh Racquet Club; and others.

Surviving Mr. Ragland, in addition to his wife, are two daughters, Anna Ragland Hayes, Chapel Hill, Alice McKenzie Ragland (husband Duff McAdams), Raleigh, and a son, William Trent Ragland, III (wife Wes), Raleigh, and brother, William McKenzie Ragland. In addition, there are four grandchildren: John Patrick Keenan, Anna Christine McKenzie Keenan, William Trent Ragland, IV, and Mary Suiter Ragland; one great-grandchild: Guinevere Keenan.

The family would like to express profound appreciation to the following caregivers and helpers: Alyson Young, Emmett Furrow, Carolyn Hall, Jane Reynolds, Yolanda Robinson, Mary Beth Bilbry, Donna Rocha, Emily Pardue, Kelley Karns, Shirley Payne, Katherine Pullen, Vicky Cassell, Iris Turner, David Ruff, Julie Adams, and Carol Hoke. The family is also grateful to the Rex Hospital Fourth Floor nurses and aides who showed extraordinary care and kindness to Mr. Ragland and his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Boys and Girls Club or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements by Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, 300 Saint Mary's Street Raleigh.

**John P. Arcaro**

EDENTON - John Peter "Johnny" Arcaro, 93, passed away on Friday, March 6, 2015.

Mr. Arcaro was born on October 28, 1921 in Syracuse, NY and was the son of the late Rocco and Mary DeFrancisco Arcaro. A veteran of World War II, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1942 through 1946, and upon his discharge came to make his home in Edenton. On June 15, 1946 he married Mary Lewis, and they spent 57 years together until her death in 2003.

Always striving to improve himself, Mr. Arcaro earned his high school diploma at the age of 46, and his pilot's license when he was 47. At the age of 85 he learned to use a computer and thoroughly enjoyed communicating with people by e-mail.

A bricklayer, he was dedicated to his work, was known locally as the best at his trade, and was often referred to as "the Michelangelo of bricklayers" by people who recognized his talent. Still working at the age of 91, his artistry will be visible for many years in the Town of Edenton, and now that same talent can be appreciated by others as he lays golden bricks in the streets of Heaven.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his step-son, Terry Bennett; his brothers, Martin, Michael, Albert, and Anthony; and by his sisters, Letitia, Nicolina, Mary, and Pasqualina.

Surviving are his step-daughter, Frances Ober; grandsons, Martin Bissell, David Ober (Blake), and Tony Bennett; granddaughters, Lisa Bissell and Kathy Hahn (Ron); great-granddaughters, Carly and Riley Ober and Stephanie Bissell; and by 26 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 14th, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. St. Anne Catholic Church, Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Edenton, assisted the family with the cremation arrangements.

The family requests no flowers be sent, but that memorial contributions be made to the Edenton Food Pantry, P.O. Box 643, Edenton, NC 27932.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.mullerfhc.com](http://www.mullerfhc.com).

**Carl Brandon**

LENOIR - Carl Campbell Brandon, age 83, of Lenoir, passed away Friday, January 30, 2015 at his niece's home in Lenoir.

Born January 7, 1932 in Chesterfield, South Carolina, Carl was a son of the late Albert Neal and Willie Frances Boyd Brandon and the husband of Dorothy "Dot" Laney Brandon with whom he shared over 62 years of marriage.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Ellen Brandon and two brothers, Charles Brandon and Everett Brandon.

Carl was raised in Clover, South Carolina working on the family farm and in construction. He graduated Clover High School as his class salutatorian. As a young, hardworking man, he along with his good friend, the late Dick Pennell worked building roads in eastern NC. With his work ethics, it wasn't long before Carl entered the furniture industry working for several different companies, managing and building plants in several states throughout the country. Along with another lifelong friend, Henry Smith, they would spend weekends and holidays up fitting plants while other employees were enjoying time off.

After retiring in the early 1990's, Carl and his wife Dot, with their niece and husband, Lisa and Chris Evans purchased a funeral home in Edenton, NC where they lived and partnered for several years. Later, they moved back to Lenoir to assist in the care for Dot's mother, Wilma Laney.

When Evans Funeral Service opened in Lenoir

in 2005, Carl was very active in the remodeling of the facility and worked as a funeral assistant until his death.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Lenoir and the Lydia Beam Sunday School Class. He was a former member of Lower Creek Baptist Church where he was an ordained deacon and had served as Sunday School Director, Treasurer and Trustee.

Surviving other than his wife Dot, are his niece, Lisa Saunders Evans and husband Chris, of Lenoir along with their two children, Elizabeth "Liz" Rebekah Evans of Lenoir; Jonathan "Jon" Douglas Thompson of Morganton; his nephew, James Douglas "Doug" Saunders and wife

Kathy of Lenoir along with their daughter Christa Saunders Price and husband Jeremiah of Lenoir. He is also survived by his three sisters, Ann Meek and husband Tommy of Gastonia; Cathryn Cooke of Falls Church, VA; Dr. Betty Brandon of Chapel Hill and one brother, Boyd Brandon of Columbia, SC and many other nieces and nephews.

A service of worship, remembering Carl's life was held at 2:00 PM Sunday, February 1, 2015 in the First Baptist Church of Lenoir with Dr. Bill Leathers officiating. Burial followed in Lower Creek Baptist Church Cemetery with Reverend David Gales and Reverend Don Ingle officiating.

The family received friends from 5:00 until 6:30 PM Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Evans Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Russell Dula, Dewey Raby, Reggy Greene, Doug Story, Aaron Deal, James Phillips, Steve Biggs and Josh Woodruff.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care, 902 Kirkwood Street, Lenoir, North Carolina 28645 or the Music Love Fund of First Baptist Church, 304 Main Street, Northwest, Lenoir, North Carolina 28645.

Online condolences may be sent to the Brandon Family at [www.evansfuneralservice.com](http://www.evansfuneralservice.com)

Evans Funeral Service & Crematory of Lenoir served the Brandon Family.

**Elizabeth Parker Tomlinson**

VIRGINIA BEACH - Elizabeth Parker Tomlinson, 73, passed away March 3, 2015. She was born in Chowan County, N.C. to the late James Thomas Copeland and Elizabeth Rose Long. She was also predeceased by her special granddad she called daddy, Jesse Smith and his wife, Goldie Parker Smith.

Left to cherish her memory is her loving husband of 14 years, Phillip Tomlinson and her daughter, Andrea Rankins Dwyer.

Funeral Services were conducted Saturday, March 7, 2015. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Condolences may be made at [www.altmeyer.com](http://www.altmeyer.com).

**Jessie Downing Harrell**

WILLIAMSTON - Jessie Downing Harrell, 84, of Williamston, NC, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 8, 2015. She passed away peacefully at Vidant In-Patient Hospice House in Greenville, NC. A native of Chowan County, Jessie was born on July 26, 1930 to the late George William and Cassandra Alexander Downing of Edenton, NC. On December 12, 1954, she married Lt. Aubrey Evans Harrell and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage. He preceded her in death as did infant daughter, Amy Lee Harrell, and a sister Maggie D. Dale.

She was a member of Williamston Memorial Baptist Church and the Dorcas Ladies Sunday School Class. Jessie worked in the home, raising her three children for fifteen years before working at Harrell Oil Company in Robersonville as secretary-bookkeeper. She enjoyed playing bridge and golf in her earlier years.

Also, while living in Windsor, NC, Jessie was involved in the community, served as a Cub Scout leader, and President of the Woman's Club.

Surviving family includes children, Michael Dean Harrell and wife Jane of Williamston, Aubrey Kent Harrell of Williamsburg, VA, and Sandra (Sandy) H.

Harrell and husband David Troy of Williamston, NC. Grandchildren are Perry Price

Harrell and wife Corinn of Philadelphia, PA, Justin Troy Harrell and wife Grace of Williamston, and Cassie Leigh Harrell, also of Williamston, a sister Virginia D. Johnson of Halifax, NC, as well as several special nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Wednesday, March 11, 2015 from 10:00 to 11:15 am in the Memorial Baptist Church atrium, 109 W. Church St. Williamston, followed by the funeral at 11:30 and burial at Martin Memorial Gardens. Services will be officiated by Revs. Robbie Parker and Dean Harrell. Memorial donations may be made to Williamston Memorial Baptist Church or to the Williamston Fire/Rescue/US.

Special thanks to Dr. Paul Walker at the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center and staff, as well as Dr. Dean Patton and the staff of Vidant In-Patient Hospice House of Greenville, NC for their wonderful care and compassion. Funeral arrangements conducted by Biggs Funeral Home of Williamston, NC.

**DEATH NOTICES**

ELIZABETH CITY - **Mary Elizabeth Trueblood Jenkins**, 70, died on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Funeral is Friday, March 13 at 11 a.m., at Pearl Street Pentecostal Church. Visitation Thursday 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Arrangements by Twiford Funeral Home, Memorial Chapel.

WINDSOR - **George Wayne Perry**, 75, died on Thursday, March 5, 2015. Funeral was held Sunday, March 8 at 4 p.m., at the chapel of Miller Funeral Home. Arrangements by Miller Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Finding Hope at Center Hill Baptist Church

From staff reports  
People from all walks of life are losing hope. Come hear accounts of real people in real life situations finding

real hope in a real God. Everyone needs to hear encouraging words, reminding us that God loves us through the worst situations.

Center Hill Baptist Church is sponsoring "Finding Hope," March 15-20 nightly at 7 p.m. Come for vibrant worship, powerful testimonies

and healing hope, expecting God to meet you where you are and rescue you from addictions, habits and hopelessness. Find hope in Jesus — the One who will love

you through the hard times. Everyone is invited — don't let your past or your present keep you from experiencing the love and forgiveness of God.

The church is located at 936 Sandy Ridge Road in Tynes. Go to [www.centerhillchurch.org](http://www.centerhillchurch.org) for more details or call (252) 339-5359.