

OBITUARIES

PAUL A. THOMAS
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Paul Austin Thomas, 83, 1001 Phifer Road, died Tuesday, August 29, 2000 at Eden Gardens.

A native of Mecklenburg County, he was the son of the late John P. and Estelle Austin Thomas and husband of the late Edith Leonard Thomas. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Preston and Glenn Thomas.

He was an Army veteran where he served in World War II. He was manager of Matthew Belk at Dixie Village, Gastonia, with a total of over 50 years with the company. He was a member of Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Gastonia, and the Men's Sunday School Class.

He was a member of the NEW Absher-Flowers Post, Gastonia, a past director of Gastonia Merchant's Association, and a past member of Gastonia Noon Optimist Club. He was past President and member of Travelers Protective Association. He enjoyed gospel music, and was an avid golfer and bowler.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Gene F. and Eleanor Ware Thomas of Kings Mountain; son, Jim Thomas of Bristol, CN; daughter and son-in-law, Kathy T. and Phil Wallace of Fairmont; brother, Charles Thomas of Huntersville; sisters, Gladys Curry of Gastonia, Eleanor Thomas of Belmont; sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and James Knight of Gastonia; sisters-in-law, Lucille Thomas of Matthews and Mary Thomas of Fayetteville; and grandchildren, Debbie Thomas of Bristol, CN, Phillip Wallace and Ross Thomas, both of Raleigh.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Ken Lane at 11 a.m. Friday at Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Gastonia. Interment was in Gaston Memorial Park.

Honorary pallbearers were co-workers and friends from Matthew-Belk Company.

Memorials may be made to Davis Memorial Baptist Church Music Ministry, 1005 Robinwood Road, Gastonia, NC 28054 or Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361.

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GRACE DISABATO
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Grace Yarbro DiSabato, 58, 1020 Bethlehem Road, died August 30, 2000 at her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Jesse Hillard and Flora Bookout Yarbro. She was a member of Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church. She served in the United States Air Force and worked in the textile industry.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald "Ron" DiSabato of Kings Mountain; son, David DiSabato and wife, Leslie, of Matthews; daughter, Dawn D. Wyte and husband, Scott, of Wilmington; brothers, Doug Yarbro, Mike Yarbro and Jeffrey Yarbro, all of Kings Mountain; sisters, Shirley Guyton, Becky Hampton and Kathy Yarbro, all of Kings Mountain; and one grandchild, Nicolas DiSabato.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. David Blanton at 6 p.m. Friday at Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150, American Cancer Society, 500 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC and Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

JOHNNIE CLINTON

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Johnnie Richard Clinton, 51, 109 Railroad Avenue, died Saturday, September 2, 2000.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of Darnelle B. Williams and the late Willie James Clinton. He was educated in the Kings Mountain School System. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Fern Hickmon; sisters, France E. Clinton, Melba J. Clinton, Thersa D. Jamerson, all of Kings Mountain, and Deacon Barbara J. Thompson and husband, Charles, of Richmond, VA; and brothers, Alan J. Jamerson and wife, Thefern, of Gastonia and Det. Maurice E. Jamerson and wife, Wanda, of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by Senior Pastor C.A. Feemster and Assistant Pastor L. Lamont Littlejohn at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

J.W. Gill & Sons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

SARAH COYLE
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Sarah Adair Coyle, 79, White Oak Manor, died Monday, September 4, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.



A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late John and Pearl May Wright Adair and widow of the late John Franklin Coyle Jr. She was a member of Hopkins Baptist Church, Zebulon, and attended Chapel Grove Baptist Church, Gastonia. She was retired from the textile industry.

She is survived by her son, John Coyle and wife Kay of York, SC; daughters, Brenda Melton Puryear and husband Durward of Gastonia, and Becky Melton and husband Billy of Carolina Beach; brothers, Ben Adair of Fayetteville, Olin Adair of Rock Hill, SC, and Alphis Adair of Myrtle Beach, SC; sister, Ann Scruggs of California; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. James Lowery at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WILLIAM M. MCCLURE

KINGS MOUNTAIN - William M. McClure, 70, 508 Unity Church Road, died August 30, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late William T. and Ethel Froneberger McClure. He was also preceded in death by his brother, George McClure.

He was a member of Oakview Baptist Church and was retired from the textile industry.

He is survived by his brothers, Theodore McClure of Kings Mountain and Marshall McClure of Gastonia; and sisters, Jane Reagan of Kings Mountain and Betty Campbell of McLeansville.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Alan Morrow at 4 p.m. Saturday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Gaston County, 717 N. New Hope Road, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

PEARL QUEEN
SHELBY - Pearl Estelle Queen, 91, 1184 Bethlehem Church Road, Grover, died September 1, 2000 at White Oak Manor Kings Mountain.

A native of Winder, Georgia, she was the daughter of the late James Patrick Snellings and the wife of the late Nelson Queen. She was also preceded in death by her son Harold Queen. She was retired from Minette Mill and was a member of Allen Memorial Baptist Church.

She is survived by son and daughter in law Ronald L. and Jacqueline Queen of Grover; son and daughter in law Alfred J. and Brenda Queen of Dallas, N.C.; also seven grandchildren.

The graveside service was conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. at Grover Cemetery by Rev. Norris Willis.

Memorials may be made to Grover Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund, PO Box 189, Grover, N.C. 28073.

Clay Barnette Funeral Home served the family.

LARRY ADAMS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Larry M. Adams, 79, 1005 N. Cansler Street, died Saturday, September 2, 2000 at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Frank Abraham and Frances Huffstetler Adams. He was the widower of the late Peggy Stone Adams and the late Daphene Dellinger Adams. He was also preceded in death by his brother Fred Adams. He was of the Baptist Faith, a veteran of the U.S. Navy in WWII, and an Oasis Shriner. He was a retired electrician.

He is survived by his sons Jerry Adams and wife Edith Kincaid Adams of Kings Mountain, and David Adams and wife Debbie Evans Adams of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; daughter Wanda Adams Raby, Dallas, N.C.

A memorial service was conducted Tuesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel at 11 a.m. by Dr. John Sloan. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Road, Shelby 28150.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

SARAH WILLIAMSON

SHELBY - Sarah Wilson Williamson, 65, 1106 Washburn Switch Road, died August 31, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of Verna Navey Wilson of Shelby and the late James Woodrow Wilson. She was the wife of the late Dan Edwin Williamson. She was also preceded in death by sisters Sue Wilson Greene and Gwendolyn Faye Wilson. She was a N.C. License Plate agent. She was a member of Double Springs Baptist Church.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her daughter and son in law Diane and Woody

Padgett of Shelby; daughter and son in law Danette and Rodney Wesson of Shelby; daughter Danyel Phelps of Shelby; sister Poniese Williamson of Shelby; grandchildren Lindy and Katie Padgett, Daniel, Joseph, and Joshua Wesson, and Austin Phelps.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at 10 a.m. at Double Springs Baptist Church by Revs. Harold Fite and Eddie Brackett. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Double Springs Baptist Church Activity Building Fund and Double Springs Brazilian Church Fund, 1130 Double Springs Church Road, Shelby 28150.

Clay Barnette Funeral Home served the family.

GENEVA DEATON

MAIDEN, N.C. - Geneva Irene Deaton, 75, 311 E. Main Street, Maiden, N.C. died September 2, 2000 at Catawba Memorial Hospital in Hickory.

A native of Spartanburg County, S.C., she was the daughter of the late Claude and Lona Belle Jenkins Deaton. She was retired from Mauney Hosiery in Kings Mountain and was a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby.

She is survived by brothers James Deaton of Kings Mountain, Clarence Deaton of Kings Mountain, Maynard Deaton of Kings Mountain, and Stoy Deaton of Blacksburg, S.C.; sister Helen Owens of Kings Mountain; nieces Cynthia Lee, Libby Johnson, Barbara Sisk; nephews Tim Payne, Roger Payne, Scott Payne.

The funeral was conducted Monday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel at 2 p.m. by Revs. Allen Sailors and Rusty Elliot.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital, 950 W. Farris Road, Greenville, S.C. 29605.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

LAWRENCE MCNEILL

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Lawrence T. McNeill, 58, 110 Benfield Road, died September 2, 2000 at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

A native of Avery County, he was a former construction worker.

He is survived by his wife Alice S. McNeill of Kings Mountain; step-daughter Elaine Ross and husband Pete Ross of Kings Mountain; parents Blanton and Mamie Grindstaff McNeill of Kings Mountain; sisters Wilma Haskins of Kings Mountain, Barbara Garland of Spruce Pine, N.C., Marie Miller of York, S.C., and Frankie Alexander of Boone, N.C.

The funeral was conducted Monday at 4 p.m. at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel by the Revs. James Williams, Larry Haskins and James Mooney.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

HELEN MCGINNIS
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Helen Tidwell McGinnis, 73, 202 S. Sims St., died September 5, 2000 at White Oak Manor.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Frelen Alvertus and Effie Franklin Tidwell and wife of the late Jacob Tracy McGinnis. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her son, J.T. "Chip" McGinnis III and wife, Patricia Strickland McGinnis, of Kansas City, MO; grandson, Clint McGinnis of Kansas City, MO; and nephew, Robert E. "Bob" Cabaniss of Shelby.

A memorial service will be conducted by Dr. Richard Newsome at 11 a.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be from 7-9 p.m. Thursday at Harris Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Presbyterian Women "Special Fund Project," First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1188, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

J.W. DOOLEY

LEXINGTON, S.C. - Jacob Willie (J.W.) Dooley, 76, died September 1, 2000.

A native of Lexington, he was the son of the late Jacob Willie, Sr. and Nancy Shull Dooley. He was a World War II airman who

flew in excess of 31 missions over Germany as a flight engineer and top turret gunner on a B-17. After returning from Europe, he began a career with the Atlantic Coast

Life Insurance Co. where he worked for forty years before retiring. He was a lifetime member of St. David's Lutheran Church where he served a

councilman, Sunday School teacher, and assistant softball coach. He served on the Board of Lexington School District One as a Trustee from 1962 until 1970 and was also active in the American Legion Post 7. He will be greatly missed by his family and multitude of friends.

He is survived by his wife Esther Wooten Dooley of Lexington; daughter and son in law Deborah and George Koon of Lexington; sons and daughters in law Larry and Dianne B. Dooley of Shelby, Phil and Debbie Dooley, and Keith and Brenda Dooley, all of Lexington; sisters Corrine Shumpert and Trannie L. Baker, both of Lexington; also 10 grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. David's Lutheran Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Mid State Chapter, PO Box 7044, Columbia, S.C. 29202-7044, or St. David's Lutheran Church, West Columbia, S.C.

Caughman-Harman Funeral Homes served the family.

MERGER

From 1A
Kirk said each side is being given only 10 minutes because the State Board cannot consider any new issues that might have arisen since its approval of merger in June. The State Board can only consider whether the merger plan is in accordance with State law, and cannot consider that lawsuits and pre-clearance by the U.S. Justice Department are still pending.

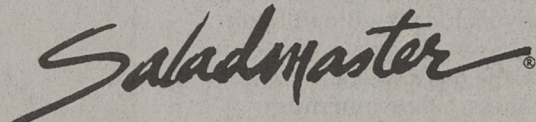
"We feel like we've heard a lot and read a lot and studied it a lot," Kirk said. "The reason we delayed it last month was because we wanted to have the opportunity for our attorneys and board members to study what transpired at the hearing (before the Administrative Law judge), so I trust that board members have had time to do that. I'm not aware of any new issues."

The State Board voted 9-3 in June to approve the merger. Kirk said he has not spoken individually with any members of his board and is "not aware of anybody that's changed their mind."

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