

KM Hospital reviews year at meeting

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Cleveland HealthCare Systems board of directors met Friday for a year end review.

Reginna Gregg updated board members on Kings Mountain Hospital. She told them the hospital had maintained its own identity in the midst of partnering with Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

CCHS is using KMH's paid time off program and computer system as a model for its other facilities.

The radiology department has grown since it began offering MRI screens one day a week on Sundays.

"That has been tremendous," Gregg said.

The hospital experienced a nursing shortage at the beginning of the year but is now down to one vacancy, Gregg said.

The pain clinic and physical therapy department have experienced high growth, according to Gregg.

KMH employees are "on fire" with the United Way campaign, she said. The hospital has also hired its first full time educator.

"It's been a good year. We

have waited a long time to go and grow," Gregg said.

On the down side, Piedmont Urology moved its practice, however, a group from CRMC is now serving Kings Mountain.

"They are delightful to work with," Gregg said. Alex Bell updated the board on construction. KMH expects the state Department of Facility Services to approve its \$8 million expansion by mid to late January. According to Bell, the 33,000 square foot expansion will make a "huge statement and impact in Kings Mountain."

The hospital expects to hear by mid-February if it is awarded a certificate of need by the state to install a permanent MRI machine. Bell called the hospital's application "strong." The project would cost between \$3 and \$3.5 million.

The next building project will be an expanded physical therapy and rehabilitation program. That project will not exceed \$450,000, according to Bell.

The hospital also hopes to replace its current generators, one is 45 years old and the other dates back to the 1980s.

OBITUARIES

ETHEL CHILDERS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ethel Farris Childers, 96, 303 El Bethel Road, died December 20, 2003 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cherokee County, SC, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary Patterson Farris and wife of the late John Emmett Childers. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Betty Ruth Childers Hughes, and brothers and sisters.

She was a member of Dixon Presbyterian Church and a member of the Young at Heart at Oak View Baptist Church. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughters, Mildred Caldwell and husband John of Kings Mountain, Faye Lovelace and husband George of Pineville, Doris Spearman and husband Glenn of Kings Mountain, and Joyce Roark and husband Don of Kings Mountain; 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, and one great-great-great grandchild.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Randy Patterson and James Billings and Carey Caldwell at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Oak View Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Dixon Presbyterian Church, c/o Jackie Hughes, 115 Hughes Drive, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; or Oak View Baptist Church, 1517 York Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

THELMA EARNEY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Thelma Woods Earney, 72, 611 McDaniel Road, died December 20, 2003 at her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Child Chester and Myrtle Buckner Woods. She was a homemaker and a member of Christian Freedom Baptist Church.

She is survived by her sons, Jimmy Earney of the home and Johnny Earney and wife Denise of Rutherfordton; daughter Barbara E. Scott of Kings Mountain; and seven grandchildren, Ray Brackett Jr., Troy Scott, Lisa Canipe, Jamie Earney, Nicole Scott, Matt Limehouse, and Ben Limehouse.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mike Chambers at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Christian Freedom Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Christian Freedom Baptist Church building fund, 246 Range Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

RONALD WRIGHT

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ronald Steven Wright, 59, 204 Blanton Street, died December 18, 2003 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of the late Geneva Ledford Wright.

He is survived by his father, Jeffrey Erastus Wright; son Ronnie Wright and wife Teresa; and brother, Roger Wright and wife Pam of Grover.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

CHANH PHOMSON

SHELBY - Chanh Phomson, 74, a resident of Century Care of Shelby, died December 19, 2003 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

She was a native of Laos. She is survived by her son, Thip Thong Phomson and wife Sandy; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held December 20 at the home of her son.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

REV. GENE WARE SR.

NORTH WILKESBORO - Rev. Samuel Eugene "Gene" Ware Sr., 73, of Mertie Road, Millers Creek, died Friday at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late William L. and Lulu Bryte Ross Ware. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, and was a police officer in Kings Mountain for 4 1/2 years. He worked for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for 27 1/2 years. He won several awards for expert marksmanship and was a member of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He later worked for Blue Ridge Security and at North Wilkes High School. He was a member of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his brother Jimmy G. Ware.

He is survived by his wife, Margie Lee Allen Ware of the home; daughters Barbara Faye Brooks of the home and Nancy Elizabeth Osborne of Millers Creek; sons Samuel Ware Jr. of Moravian Falls, and Joseph L. Ware of Millers Creek; brother William P. Ware of Charlotte; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Burl Faw and Gary Benesh at 3 p.m. Monday at Reins-Sturdivant Chapel. Burial with military rites by Post #1142 of Veterans of Foreign Wars was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Wilkes, 1908 West Park Drive, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.

RUSH MULL SR.

SHELBY - Rush Issac Mull Sr., 76, 725 W. Marion St., died December 16, 2003 at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of

the late J. Van Mull and Jessie Whisnant Mull. He was also preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters.

He was retired from the textile industry, and was a Baptist. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea.

He is survived by his wife, Revonda Brookshire Webb Mull of the home; son and daughter-in-law Rush and Sherry Mull of Kings Mountain; daughters and sons-in-law, Peggy and Richard Blackburn of Gastonia, Grace and Curt Bridges of Shelby, and Vanessa Mull of Shelby; step-sons Jerry John Webb of Shelby and Randy Webb and wife Sharon of Boiling Springs; step-daughters, Janet Webb of Boiling Springs and Melissa Bennett and husband Tom of Tampa, FL; sister Bryte Lemberger of Shelby; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Andy Oliver at 11 a.m. Friday at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was in Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association, 434 Fayetteville St. Mall, Suite 1600, Raleigh, NC 27601.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

ODELL SMART

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Odell Smart, 86, 131 Kristie Lane, died

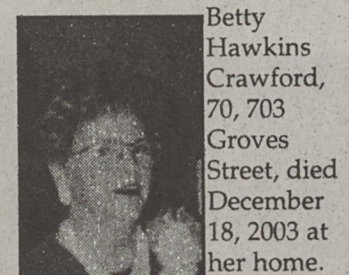
December 10, 2003 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Rutherford County, he was the son of the late Caleb and Nancy Philbeck Smart and husband of the late Ruth McCurry Smart. He was also preceded in death by his granddaughter Dawn Bell, and daughter-in-law Diane Smart.

He was the retired owner of S&S Painting in Kings Mountain. He was a member of Otis D. Green American Legion Post and the Am-Vets. He served in five major battles in the U.S. Army in World War II.

He is survived by his sons, Ronnie Smart and wife Susan of Belmont and Gary Smart and wife Linda of Kings Mountain; daughter Vickie S. Williams and husband Bob of Kings Mountain; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and sister Berda Bowen of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mike Chambers at 2 p.m. Friday, December 12, 2003 at Christian Freedom Baptist Church. Interment was in Grover Cemetery. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



BETTY CRAWFORD

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Betty Hawkins Crawford, 70, 703 Groves Street, died December 18, 2003 at her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Preston Audie and Nettie Pearson Hawkins and wife of the late Robert Louis Crawford.

She was a homemaker and retired secretary for the late Warren Reynolds. She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Catherine Crawford of Kings Mountain and Pam Crawford and husband Wynn of Kings Mountain; granddaughter, Carmen Anne "Annie" Crawford of Kings Mountain; brother Tommy Hawkins and wife Kay of Kings Mountain; sisters Peggy Davis of Kings Mountain, Myra Hagans and husband Tom of Kings Mountain, Lois Ellis and husband Don of Grover, and Linda Tignor of Shelby; brothers-in-law, Don Crawford of Kings Mountain, Jim Crawford of Shreveport, LA, and Don Bumgardner of Kings Mountain; 11 nephews, eight nieces, 12 great nephews, and six great nieces.

A memorial service was conducted by the Revs. Dale Swofford and John Heath at 3 p.m. Sunday at Grace United Methodist Church. A graveside service was held at 8 a.m. Sunday at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Grace United Methodist Church, 830 Church Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

EMMETT ROWLAND

KINGS MOUNTAIN - William Emmett Rowland, 87, 991 Mary Grove Church Road, died December 21, 2003 at his daughter's residence.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late William Judd and Florence Mack Rowland. He was owner of Rowland Machine and attended Westview Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ferrie Thompson Rowland; sons Benny Rowland of Kings Mountain, Marvin Rowland of Seattle, WA and Curtis Rowland of Bessemer City; daughters Genell Hawkins of Clover, SC, and Nancy Hampton of Kings Mountain; sister Mae Tallent of Gretna, VA; 19 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Verana Mae Bryant Rowland; son Jerrell Rowland; two brothers and one sister.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Jerry Millwood at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Sisk-Butler Funeral Home Chapel, Bessemer City. Interment will be in Tippet Cemetery, Franklin, NC at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home, Bessemer City, was in charge of arrangements.

Hospital Auxiliary taking applications for scholarships

The Kings Mountain Hospital Auxiliary scholarship committee is now taking applications for the organization's health care scholarship.

Applicants must be planning a career in health care, be accepted at a college or hospital study program and either live in Kings Mountain or be a student at Kings Mountain High School.

The application deadline is Feb. 1.

The scholarship is worth

\$2,000 over a four year period. It is awarded based on financial need and academic capability.

Applications forms are available at Kings Mountain Hospital. The contact person there is Betty Batchler. The Kings Mountain High School guidance office senior scholarship coordinator also has applications. Applications may be returned to either location.

For more information, call Wanda Jones in the evening at 704-739-9964.

School board to meet

Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education has changed its scheduled January 12 meeting to January 5 at 7 p.m. at the

Central office, 105 East Ridge Street.

The meeting is open to the public.



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Kristi Anthony
Executive Director



Tammy Roper
Community Relations

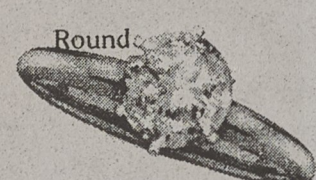

Come in and see one of our Summit Place Angels!!

Happy Holidays

Winner will be announced on December 24, 2003 Christmas Eve.

For he shall give his angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11

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