

## OBITUARIES

### NELSON ROPER

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Nelson Roper, 60, 212 Fairview Street, died May 16, 2007 at VA Hospital, Salisbury.

He was born in Cleveland County. He was the son of the late William Ivy and Mamie King Roper. He was husband to the late Billie Jo Wells Roper. He was also preceded in death by his brother, William Roper Jr., and sister Lorena Falls.

He served in the United States Army during World War II and he was retired from Lithium Corp. FMC, Bessemer City.

He is survived by his sons, Nelson Roper of Kings Mountain, Scott Roper and wife Tiffany of Gastonia, and Mark Roper of Kings Mountain; brothers Paul Roper and Michael Roper, both of Kings Mountain, Donald Roper of Grover and Jimmy Roper of Cedar Mt., NC; sisters Margaret Payne, Mary Pearson and Ivory Nolen, all of Kings Mountain, and Mildred Shytle of Blacksburg, SC; and three grandchildren, Logan Roper, Addison Roper and Jackson Roper.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Eddie Gray at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 2007 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Veterans Garden.

A guest register is available at [www.harrisfunerals.com](http://www.harrisfunerals.com).

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### HELEN HUFFSTETLER JENNINGS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Helen Huffstetler Jennings, 90, 110 Fox Fire Lane, died May 16, 2007 at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain.

She was a native of Cleveland County and the daughter of the late Forest and Quillie Ray Ham Huffstetler. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Jennings, and sons John Carpenter and Louis Carpenter.

She was a former employee of Burlington Mills and Kings Mountain Hospital.

She is survived by her son Steve Carpenter and wife Frankie of Kings Mountain; sisters Aileen Huffstetler, Margaret Huffstetler and Iva Mae Henson, all of Kings Mountain; grandchildren Chad Carpenter of Bessemer City and Brad Carpenter of Kings Mountain; and great-grandchildren Lane Carpenter and Stephanie Carpenter.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Boyce Huffstetler and Darrell Lewis at 3 p.m. Friday, May 19, 2007 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to White Oak Manor "Activities," 716 Sipes St., Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

A guest register is available at [www.harrisfunerals.com](http://www.harrisfunerals.com).

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### JAMES M. "JM" HICKS JR.

KINGS MOUNTAIN - James M. "JM" Hicks Jr., 84, 404 Tot Dellinger Road, Cherryville, died May 18, 2007 at White Oak Manor, Kings Mountain.

He was born in Cleveland County, son of the late James Miles Hicks Sr. and Mattie Viola Morris Hicks. He was also preceded in death by his wife Ollie Jane Hicks, daughter Lillie Sanders and brother Albert Lee Hicks.

He was of the Baptist faith and served in the United States Army. He retired from Burlington Industries after more than 30 years of service.

He is survived by his son, Luther Ray Hicks of Lawndale; daughters Sarah Roberson and Margaret Roberson of Cherryville, and Martha Short and Mildred Biddix of Kings Mountain; brothers Sidney Hicks and Paul Hicks of Kings Mountain, Tommy Hicks of Grover, Franklin Hicks of Shelby and Jacob Hicks of Clover, SC; sisters Helen Kiser, Betty Ledbetter and Lydia Emma Putnam of Kings Mountain, and Mary Boheler of Clover, SC; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Jack Callaway at 2 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2007 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Cleveland Memorial Park, Boiling Springs.

A guest register is available at [www.harrisfunerals.com](http://www.harrisfunerals.com).

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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### JOSEPH LLOYD COLVIN

CHERRYVILLE - Joseph Lloyd Colvin, 26, 481 Mozzelle Road, died May 19, 2007.

He was born in Oneida, NY. He was a wonderful person and everyone loved him. He was employed with Harris-Teeter, Cherryville. He was a 1999 graduate of Kings Mountain High School.

He is survived by his father and step-mother, Charles E. Colvin and Evelyn Truett Colvin of Cherryville; mother Bernadine Moore of Kings Mountain; brothers Charles E. "Junior" Colvin of Canastota, NY, Robert Walker of Kings Mountain, John Walker of Gastonia, and Charles Shane Walker of Blacksburg, SC; sister Linda George of Canastota, NY; step-sisters Teresa Utt of Kings Mountain, Patricia Hooper of Dallas, Pamela Lail of Gastonia, Crystal Byers of Grover and Connie Noland of Kings Mountain.

A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Robert Walker at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

A guest register is available at [www.harrisfunerals.com](http://www.harrisfunerals.com).

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### RAYMOND O. GREGORY

DALLAS - Raymond O. Gregory, 83, 1524 Silver Court, died May 21, 2007 at home.

He was born June 11, 1923 in Cleveland County, to the late Thomas Lester and Essie Jackson Gregory. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Geraldine Holcomb Gregory, who died March 14, 2007; brothers Rev. John L. Gregory and Jennings Gregory, and sisters Betty Cash and Eloise Clary.

He was a charter member of First Church of the Nazarene in Kings Mountain, where he was a former Sunday School superintendent and teacher as well as song leader. He was retired from Burlington Industries in Kings Mountain. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was awarded two Bronze Battle Stars, two Silver Star Medals, a Purple Heart, and others. He was also the first living inductee into the Army Hero Hall of Bravery in Gaffney, SC.

He is survived by sons Ronald W. Gregory and wife Janet of Blacksburg, SC, Donald O. Gregory and wife Linda of Augusta, GA, and Randy K. Gregory and wife Janice of Midway, GA; daughters Gloria Hardee and husband Alfred of the home, Wanda Butler and husband Lonnie of Hope Mills, and Regina Deaton of Bessemer City; sister Nellie K. Moore of Kings Mountain; 15 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Michael Daugherty and Tim Hendricks at 11 a.m. Thursday at Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain, with full military rites by the Bessemer City American Legion Post 243 Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to First Church of the Nazarene, 121 Countryside Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

To offer condolences visit [www.siskbutler.com](http://www.siskbutler.com). Sisk-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Memorial Day ceremony in Shelby

Cleveland County Veterans Council will be hold its annual Memorial Day ceremony May 27 at 2 p.m. at Cleveland Memorial Park. In case of inclement weather it will e in the Mausoleum Chapel.

Richard McSwain will be master of ceremonies. Guest speaker will be Captain Brian Luti, Assistant Professor of Military Science at Gardner Webb University.

Members of service auxiliary organizations will place wreaths.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Nelson Roper was a real hero

To the editor:

On May 16 Kings Mountain lost an authentic "hero." Unknown to most citizens of Kings Mountain, Nelson Roper, one of the most highly decorated veterans to return home alive from Vietnam, quietly lived out his life in our city.

Like most true warriors he never mentioned his exploits in Vietnam, you couldn't pick the information out of him. He may have shared some of his experiences with Billie Jo, his wife and mother of his three sons, but if so, she took the knowledge with her when she passed away three years ago.

Nelson's helicopter was shot from the skies on two different occasions and he along with it. He survived to fight another day, but some of his crew didn't. On one occasion his helicopter flew directly into an intense firefight to rescue several wounded and stranded infantrymen who were about to be overrun by advancing North Vietnamese Regulars. Had it not been for Nelson and his crew, their names would be inscribed on the "wall," instead, they celebrated Mother's Day at home with their mothers this past Sunday.

Following several months of rehabilitation in an army hospital in Japan, he came home with relatively minor scars after being awarded his first Purple Heart. Then he went back for a second tour and was assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Soon he was in the thick of it again, only to be severely wounded again. But not before he had been awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with "V" device for valor, Vietnam Service Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Unit Citation Badge, Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and his second Purple

Heart.

The term "hero" has been badly misused by sportswriters who use the word to describe achievements by an athlete on a football field or basketball court. How could anyone possibly compare the courageous efforts required by just one of the awards listed above to that of catching a pass in a football game? To do so is a mockery and is absolutely ridiculous.

Memorial Day will be observed shortly, and there is no better time to remind all of Kings Mountain that we have just lost a "real hero." One who deserves more than to be simply called a "hero," because Nelson was much more than that. I watched him grow from a little "cotton mill cowboy" to the larger than life man that he was. He was a wonderful husband, grandfather, and brother; he was, and will always be, my buddy.

He wasn't a "wannabe" or a rear echelon soldier, but a true patriot who saw his duty and performed that duty with honor. When he returned home after his second tour in the war zone, he was picked up at the Charlotte airport. On the way out of the terminal he commented "just look at all those people walking around as if nothing is happening." His thoughts were back in Vietnam with his buddies who were fighting for their lives - and your freedom.

Memorial Day would be a good time for the citizens of Kings Mountain to think about Nelson and the sacrifices he made for each of us. And to also remember the sacrifices currently being made by his son, who is serving as a Navy Corpsman on his third tour of duty in Iraq and the Middle East; and all the other "heroes" who, on a daily basis, lay their lives on the altar of freedom.

It is also a good time to reflect on the fact that "Freedom is not Free."

Tom Shytle

## LOCAL

### No tax hike in Grover budget

EMILY WEAVER

[eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com](mailto:eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com)  
Grover Town Council Monday night voted to keep the tax rate the same in next year's budget.

The property tax rate was set to remain at 29 cents per \$100 assessed value. Water and sewer utility rates are set to remain at 9 cents/\$100 for a grand total of 38 cents/\$100. Last year the town's tax rate was listed as the third (out of the 12 towns and cities) highest in the county. But compared to other municipalities of the same size and population, it is still one of the cheapest places to live.

Mayor Robert Sides said that he has worked hard on the proposed budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year over the past three weeks. He was happy to announce that the tax rate will not change on July 1. Councilwoman Jackie Bennett was also pleased to announce that rates for cemetery plots would also stay the same.

The conservative budget proposes cuts where needed and provides opportunities where possible. It allocates more money to the Community Improvement section of the General Fund, allowing more beautification projects within the town or the possibility of a 4th of July event.

### Grover appoints new police chief

Grover Town Council last week unanimously appointed Tommy Carroll of Kings Mountain as police chief.

He is presumed to begin by the end of this week. He has been a deputy in the Sheriff's office for the past seven and a half years and worked as a detention and relief officer at the jail for four and a half years.

The final budget, which is also on display at Town Hall, is broken down below.

#### General Fund:

Total revenues = \$239,200  
Office Operations = \$43,240  
Town Hall Oper. = \$37,960  
Maintenance Oper. = \$15,470  
Police Operations = \$68,489  
Fire Department = \$14,400  
Environmental Oper. = \$42,620  
Street Operations = \$7,000  
Community Improvement = \$10,021

Total expenditures = \$239,200  
**Cemetery Fund:**  
Total revenues = \$9,500  
Total expenditures = \$9,500  
**Powell Fund:**  
Total revenues = \$28,000  
Plant Operations = \$28,000  
Total expenditures = \$28,000  
**Water & Sewer Fund:**  
Total revenue = \$333,350  
Administration = \$95,222  
Maintenance = \$62,635  
Operations = \$175,493  
Total expenditures = \$333,350.

Also at the meeting, Sides surprised the council with a gift 200 years in the making. "I've been trying to get this for a year and a half now and I finally got the call today," he told the council, passing around the town's first official seal in 200 years.

The insignia reads: "Town of Grover, North Carolina, 1885. 'Where the Carolinas begin.'" The seal printed on metal signs will be displayed throughout the town. It will be printed on the town's letterhead and may even appear on city vehicles.

## The Herald

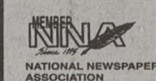
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