



Sara Stone Burleson

October 6, 1925 - February 11, 2020

Sara Stone Burleson, age 94, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Oakmont at Gordon Park.

Sara was born on October 6, 1925 in Durham, NC, to the late Ethel Byrd Stone and James Right Stone. Sara graduated from Durham High School and attended Catawba College where she was a cheerleader. While at Catawba, she met the love of her life, William Wesley Burleson, "Burly". They were married in 1949 until his death in 1999. They raised their children with a strong emphasis on faith, family and friendship. Their home was a gathering spot for all!

Sara was a bright light and her family and multitude of friends will cherish memories of her joyful personality and her enthusiasm for life. Her strong Christian faith and her passion for people shaped a life well lived, full of unconditional love. She delighted in making people laugh, and she never missed a chance to dress up in costume. Whether sharing her homemade pickles and rum cakes, or dancing at her grandchildren's weddings, Sara lived life to the fullest. She often left surprise love notes after a visit with her children and grandchildren, and she was a cherished friend of their friends as well. In earlier years, she was an avid tennis player and golfer, and she continued her love of the game of mahjongg throughout her later life.

She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, where she served as both Deacon and Elder. She was a member of the 1931 History Club, the Bristol Junior League and the former Border Guild.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, James Right Stone, Jr. and step-great-grandson, Zachary Beachley.

She is survived by her three children, Lynn Burleson Hodges and husband, Charley of Charlotte, NC; William Wesley Burleson, Jr. (Wes) and wife, Barbie of Bristol, TN; James Henry Burleson (Jim) and wife, Connie of Kingsport, TN; her grandchildren, Charles Hodges and wife, Elizabeth of Richmond, VA; William Hodges and wife, Katie of Charlotte, NC; Simpson Burleson Schmitt and husband, Allan of Charlotte, NC; Banner Burleson Vicary and husband, Michael of Burlington, NC; Wesley Burleson Leuzinger and husband, Micah of Bristol, TN; Becca Burleson of Wilmington, NC; Rachael Burleson of Durres, Albania, and Sarah Burleson of Kingsport, TN; great-grandchildren, Barnes Schmitt,

Kennedy Schmitt, Collins Schmitt, Henry Hodges, Winnie Hodges, Sara Clementine Hodges and Lily Burleson Wilson; step-grandchildren, Nikki Beachley and Karissa Deal, both of Kingsport, TN; step-great-grandchildren, Isabella and Christian Beachley, Kylan and Keiralynn Deal and Aiden Ketron; and her nieces and nephews.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff and caregivers at Oakmont at Gordon Park; and her special friend, Shirley Lowe, for all the TLC they bestowed on Sara.

The funeral service will be conducted at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, February 16, 2020 at Central Presbyterian Church with Rev. Ann Aichinger officiating. The family will receive friends from 2:00 -3:00 P.M., Sunday prior to the service at the church. A reception will follow at the Bristol Hotel from 4:00 -6:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Central Presbyterian Church, 301 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA 24201 or Healing Hands Health Center, 245 Midway Medical Park, Bristol, TN 37620.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at akardfuneralhome.com

Akard Funeral Home, (423) 989-4800 is serving the Burleson family.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

16

Central Presbyterian Church
301 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA, US, 24201

FEB **Service** 03:00PM

16

Central Presbyterian Church
301 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA, US, 24201

Comments



“ I worked with this wonderful woman at The Landmark Realty Inc. She was always trying to send me on blind dates. I loved her so much! She and Bill were like my family when I lived in Bristol

Melissa Rush Lane - February 20, 2020 at 11:17 PM



“ She was absolutely one of my favorite people on earth. Lina Gann and I loved our sleepovers at the Burleson's when we're we're young. She was so much fun. Love to all...I'm so sorry for your loss.

Sue Carroll (Hyatt) - February 17, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ Lynn, Wes and Jim, I'm so sorry about the loss of your Mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours. I, as did everyone who knew her, loved her. I remember the last time I saw her was at Machiavelli's during Rhythm & Roots a couple of years ago. We were all there toe-tapping to the Corklickers. She will be greatly missed.

JB Baxley - February 16, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire family. She was a "real hoot"



Henry & Karen Musick - February 16, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers to you Lynn, Wes, and Jimmy. Your mother had a beautiful smile. I hope you find peace and comfort in your memories.

Cynthia Ringley Hintze

Cynthia Hintze - February 15, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ The first time I visited my friend at Oakmont I met Sara. She greeted me like a long lost friend. She was such a delight. After our first meeting I always looked for her . I will miss seeing her. I know your family was blessed by her sweet, loving outgoing personality. I share in your sadness knowing that I won't get to see her anymore in this life, but I will look forward to seeing her again in heaven. I pray that you will feel God's grace and peace in knowing that she is with Him. Sincerely, Sally Blackburn

sally - February 15, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ We called her "Twinkle Toes" on the tennis court. Sara was a good sport and a great gal who brightened everybody's day. We'll miss her! Studie and Sidney Wike

Studie Wike - February 15, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ My heart aches, Wesley, Lynne and Jimmy. Your mom was the real deal. I don't she ever had an unkind word for anybody, and I know she was dearly loved me and my family. Retta said it well; thanks for the memories Sweet Sara. Peace and hugs and sweet memories to you all.

Mary Bachman Wilson - February 14, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ Sarah was one of the nicest, sweetest woman We have ever known. Always had a smile and what a sense of humor! She will be missed by all. Our thoughts and Prayers are with the family.

Gary and Debbie Boone

gary Boone - February 14, 2020 at 08:25 PM



“ Sending my sympathy to each of you. Nelson & I will be in Nashville until Monday so will miss the funeral, and seeing you. I've always loved that crazy, fun woman, and will never forget her.

With love,
Joan Link

Joan Link - February 14, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ Keeping all of Sarah's family and friends in both my thoughts and my prayers. What a great life and legacy.

Parker Haynes Minchin - February 14, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ Aunt Sara, was always happy, every time I would visit she always had a big smile and the warmest hugs. I can remember so many years ago, visiting with her and playing ping pong.

Robert Todd - February 14, 2020 at 04:38 PM



“ So glad we were neighbors for over 30 years. Sending love and comfort to all the family. Melanie Gilliam Yates.

Melanie Yates - February 14, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ Ms Burluson lived next to my papaw for years and I loved sneaking over to her house to play cards and play with her lab. She was such a fun person and so caring. She will be missed for sure!

Candice Yates - February 14, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ Sara B, or Say-ree!! I can hear my mom now calling all of her nicknames. Sara made a room light up!! She was a trickster and always a positive light in a room. She loved to joke and laugh and was so interested in others!! Her best gift from God was the love for her family!! She Loved each and every one!! RIP, Sara. You will be missed. Thanks for the fun

Retsy Vance Poynter - February 14, 2020 at 09:15 AM



“ When she would see me at church she would say, "Come here and give me my hug!" "And give that sweet, little wife of yours a hug from me, too!" Lovely lady...gonna miss my hugs.

Eugene Waldron - February 14, 2020 at 12:27 AM



“ Loved her dearly!!! Sara always made me smile. It was always a GOOD DAY when I saw Sara. She was a positive influence to all of us who were fortunate to know her.

Jayne Rodefer Walker - February 13, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ Sara was so PRECIOUS TO ME.SHE ALWAYS HAD KIND WORDS ENCOURAGING WORDS .ALWSYS MADE YOU SMILE.I WILL CHERISH ALL THE MEMORIES I HAVE IF HER.PRAYERS FOR,ALL HER FAMILY N FRISKY

Robin chapman - February 13, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Always so positive, encouraging, my favorite days of school would be when I'd walk into classroom, and she'd be the substitute teacher love to all the family. I know she'll be greatly missed by all.

Debbie Fostet - February 14, 2020 at 08:15 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lynn, Wes, Jimmy and the family. May the good Lord see you through these times.

Ann, John & Betty McDaniel

John McDaniel - February 13, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ I met Sara in the late '60's at Juergen's. She was a beautiful, intelligent and funny lady then and until the day she died. Rest In Peace Sara. You were one of a kind.

candysnodgrass - February 13, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ 227 files added to the album LifeTributes



Akard Funeral Home - February 13, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ Sara was one of my favorite customers at the bank where I worked. She was always so cheerful. It was a delight to wait on her. Virginia Graves

Virginia (Ginny) Graves - February 13, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ Mrs. Burleson was a "2nd Mom" to me.....always fun and uplifting and loving** She will always be in my heart and I was so fortunate to have known her. My condolences to Jimmy, Lynn and Wes.....a wonderful family and dear friends !

John Fulwider - February 13, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ . Have good memories of Sara when she was a neighbor on Skyline Dr. Such a lovely person. May God grant her family comfort as only He can. Barbara Knoll

Barbara Knoll - February 13, 2020 at 11:40 AM