



Abatine Rebecca Shirley

March 14, 2009

GARDEN CITY Abatine Rebecca "Becky" Shirley, age 83 wife of the late David Larry Shirley, Sr., died Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Waccamaw Community Hospital. Fondly known to friends and family simply as "Becky", was born at home in Garden City, October 7, 1925, a daughter of the late Ernest Berry and Jossie Vereen. Her childhood years were spent growing up in Coastal Horry County, near the creeks and salt water estuaries that she loved so dearly. Becky attended MB high school and graduated class of 1943 with only 22 seniors. After high school she attended Newberry College where she received an associate degree in Business. Becky supported the troop efforts by going into the Navy and participated as a Nurses aid serving with the Navy Waves for two years. When she returned to Murrells Inlet she went into business with her sister. They opened The Garden City Grill, a 150 seat seafood restaurant, at the head of what is now Atlantic Blvd. This was the first seafood restaurant in Garden City and she helped to introduce to diners what is now known as "fan-tailed shrimp". She successfully developed a local following of customers from Conway to Georgetown SC. It was during this time where she met her husband of 54 years, David Larry Shirley Sr.,. He was stationed in Murrells Inlet on what was then referred to as the "crash boats", docked at the old government pier. These boats were used to run reconnaissance missions that supported the aircraft that ran target practice off the South Carolina Coast. She was married in 1947 and she and her husband took over as the sole proprietors of the Garden City Grill. They continued to

operate the "Grill" until Hurricane Hazel took it in 1954. At this time her husband returned to the service under the Air Force Branch. This led to her extended 20 year career as an Air Force Wife and Mother of three. Becky traveled the world with extended tours that included Honolulu, Hawaii, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and visits to Paris France, Rome Italy, Jerusalem, and Ethiopia. Her husband's final stop in the Air Force brought them to Charleston, SC close to her home in Garden City where he retired in 1966. Becky was eagerly recruited by Foster McKissick to run the Litchfield Country Club dining room. Just as she did with the Garden City Grill she built up a big following of local and out of town customers. When Becky retired from the Country Club, she took on the motherly responsibility of raising her two granddaughters as if they were her own. She continued to work while helping her husband develop what is now Green Lakes Mobile Home Resort in Garden City, which she operated and managed until her recent death. She was and always will be remembered as the Matriarch of Southern Low Country cooking and local historian of Horry County history and family folk lore. Mrs. Shirley was a member of Belin Memorial United Methodist Church and was pre-deceased by a son: Charles Richard Shirley and a great-grandson Jackson Reed Silver. Surviving are a son: David Larry Shirley, Jr. of Garden City; a daughter: Susan Rebecca Duerk and husband, Donald of Murrells Inlet; two granddaughters: Kelly Elizabeth Shirley of Garden City and Kimberly Vereen Shirley-Silver and husband, Everette Dean Silver of Murrells Inlet; three great-grandchildren: Charles Dean Silver, Aiden Christopher Shirley and Rebecca Cape Silver. Funeral Services will be held 3:00 PM Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. B. Mike Alexander, Jr. and The Rev. Tommy H. Tipton Officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery, directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association of S.C., 1817 Gadsen Street, Columbia, SC 29201-2392 or to Belin Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 528, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. Sign a guest book at www.goldfinchfuneral

home.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Kim, we are very sorry to hear about your loss. It sounds as though she had a very full and exciting life. Your family is in our prayers.##imported-begin##Charles & Susie Parker##imported-end##

March 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ DAVID AND CAROLINE. I REMEMBER WORKING WITH YOUR MOTHER AT LITCHFIELD INN IN THE 70S. MY SYMPATHIES ARE WITH YOU PATTI##imported-begin##PATTI HOWARD-GILLELAND##imported-end##

March 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss . Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers .##imported-begin##The Prox family Frankie ,Dale , Tina & Renee##imported-end##

March 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We were so blessed to have known Becky through Kim and Everett. Our sincerest sympathy to all of her family. Love, Steve, Barbara and family##imported-begin##Steve Harvey Family##imported-end##

March 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Becky will truly be missed by all who knew her. She was a true southern lady. Sincere sympathy to all the family.##imported-begin##Carolyn Pait##imported-end##*

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *We have had a second home in Green Lakes Resort for 18 years and have always enjoyed knowing Becky and Larry Shirley. Becky was a very kind and loving mother and friend. One of my fondest memories of her is that she loved peaches and we would bring them down from McBee Farms when we came to the beach. She will be missed by the us and the people in the park and our sympathies go out to David and all the children. My God bless and keep all of you in his arms and know that you had a wonderful mother. Linda and Bill Estridge Bethune, S.C.##imported-begin##Bill and Linda Estridge##imported-end##*

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear David and Susan, We were very sorry to hear about Aunt Becky. She was a wonderful lady who will be missed by all. I will always remember the family reunions and the good times we had there. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. Delton, Carrie, Lydia, Ansley, and Clarissa Vereen##imported-begin##Delton Vereen##imported-end##*

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Susan, You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. I lost my mom before Christmas and I know how hard it is. It seems like the gang our families that started Garden City are all gone now but the memories we'll have forever. Let me know if I can do anything for you. Love you.##imported-begin##Christine Keasler##imported-end##

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family, My thoughts are with all of you during this time! She was a wonderful woman to have as an Aunt! I loved talking with her at family events!##imported-begin##Leslie Carter##imported-end##

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kim and Kelly, Please accept my condolences on the loss of your mom. I know how much she meant to you both. Sharon##imported-begin##Sharon DelCorro##imported-end##

March 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ David, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time.##imported-begin##Mike and Bobbie Hamby##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM