



Bessie Margaret McGraw

May 15, 2009

Bessie Davis McGraw, 92, of Garden City Beach, died Friday, May 15th at National Health Care after battling a massive stroke for eight months. A daughter of the late Sarah Florence Johnson and Samuel Charles Davis, she was born in the Jordanville section of Horry County on May 8, 1917. She was a graduate of Aynor High School, attended Columbia and Winthrop Colleges and was a graduate of the Dietetic School in Washington, DC. She worked at the Charleston Navy Yard during World War II, becoming a real Rosie the Riveter . She earned a First Class Machinist Badge as she learned to weld and to use an acetylene torch. She began her career in food services at the Villa Ambrose in Myrtle Beach and at Conway Elementary School. The years between 1947 and her retirement in 1980 were spent as the Dietitian and Food Service Administrator at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, NC and at hospitals in Gastonia, Kings Mountain, and Waynesville, N.C. She also traveled for three years for Zyobo Food Services, setting up new accounts in the area between Nashville, TN and Richmond, VA. After her retirement, she lived in Gastonia and in Roper, NC until her move to Garden City Beach in 1982. She was a loyal, life-long member of Methodist churches wherever she lived, usually working with the young people. She was currently one of the most-beloved members of Belin Memorial United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet. Her prowess at cooking and gardening were legendary, with her sweet pickles always being best sellers at church bazaars. She was predeceased by her husband, Thurman McGraw, 4 brothers: Harry Davis, Leon Davis, Palmer

Bill Davis, and Earl Davis, and 3 sisters: Pauline Davis, Lunette D. Floyd, and Reba D. Glasgow. She is survived by 2 sisters: Dena D. McGinn of Conway, and Mary Frances D. Hassell of Roper, NC as well as by numerous loving nieces, nephews, godchildren, and loyal friends. Services will be held 10:00 AM Wednesday at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church with the Rev. Mike Alexander officiating. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Antioch United Methodist Church Cemetery directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel. The family will receive friends after the service at the Family Life Center of Belin Memorial United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to the Belin UMC Land Acquisition Fund at PO Box 528, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 or to the Antioch UMC Cemetery Fund at 5526 Antioch Rd., Conway, SC 29527. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Miss Bessie we are truly going to miss the visits with you, your friendly smiles and the good old times we talked about. Love you !!###imported-begin##Harriette Davis###imported-end##

May 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss your beautiful blue eyes and big smile for me every night!!!you will be missed!!!!###imported-begin##Kathy La Piere###imported-end##

May 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with her at Gaston Memorial Hospital on Highland Street many years ago . I remember how she always ended our group meeting prayer with "let us all work in peace and harmony". I will greatly miss her. Sending my love to the family.###imported-begin##Ernestine Jackson Cooke###imported-end##

May 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. McGraw changed the course of my life when she recruited me as I graduated from Columbia College to come to Gastonia to work as a dietitian at Gaston Memorial Hospital. I married a local boy, and am still here 48 years later. She was my mentor and my friend, and even though I had lost touch with her, still think of her so fondly. She was a gracious, generous, talented lady and I will always be grateful for her impact upon my life. Rest in peace, Miss Bessie!###imported-begin##Eva Ann McLean###imported-end##

May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ms.Bessie, even though we were out of touch, i will always remember you for your kinds words and the wonderful vegetables you use to bring by my shop, Peace be with you, Brenda Smith, Inshore Imports Inc.car repair##imported-begin##BRENDA SMITH##imported-end##

May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was a long time 50+years friend of Bess's from Bradley Memorial in Gastonia. The church still has a church Women's Circle named the Bessie Davis Circle. She and I had kept in contact for years and I did not know what had happened and why she had not responded to my letters. A church member brought me her obit. She was a wonderful Bible teacher and a dear friend. When my brother died, Bess was one of the first at the door with food. She was always a faithful friend. My mother,Lena,is 94 and told me what to say about her dear friend. I remember Bess coming to the house as a child for a meal. She touched many lives. God's Peace to her. Rosalind W.Georgion##imported-begin##Lena Wright##imported-end##

May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ms. Bessie was a wonderful woman and she brought a smile to so many people's faces. She will be deeply missed!##imported-begin##Elizabeth Powell##imported-end##

May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss you alot!And going to take you vegetables,to make those sweet pickles.I will miss going by and sitting with you,hearing all the things you had to say.I know without a doubt that god is with you now.##imported-begin##corey davis##imported-end##

May 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh, what a dear, dear Southern Lady! I will miss those beautiful blue eyes and sweet smile but always remember her contribution to Belin.....particularly the beautiful piano!##imported-begin##Norma Cooler##imported-end##

May 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ How much I will miss your radiant smile, your cheerful hello, and your words of wisdom as we join each Sunday for worship. God be with you my friend.##imported-begin##Joe Howerton##imported-end##

May 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM