



## LaVerne Houk Creel

December 19, 2009

Conway, SC---LaVerne Houk Creel of Conway died at her home on Saturday, Dec 19, 2009, following an extended illness. The youngest of five children born to William Beecher and Jemima Lee Houk in Sevierville, TN, Mrs. Creel grew up in the mountains of east Tennessee. In 1941 she married Johnny S. Creel and moved with him to Conway, where together they spent most of the next 69 years. Mrs. Creel is survived by her husband of nearly sixty-nine years, Johnny S. Creel, of Conway, one daughter, Cindy (Dan) Epps of Matthews, NC, one son, John (Rebekah) Creel of North Myrtle Beach and Charlotte, three grandsons, Jason (Katie) Epps of Tailors, SC, Alex (Julie Lufkin) Epps of Charlotte, NC, Robert Creel of North Myrtle Beach, and one great grand daughter, Abby Epps of Tailors. She was predeceased by a daughter, Sandra C. Creel. Mrs. Creel was well known in business, civic, and political circles in Horry County through her work with the Conway Chamber of Commerce. She went to the chamber as a temp at its founding in 1958, and retired in the mid-1980s as its executive director. She was actively involved in the founding or development of many of the institutions now considered part of everyday life in Horry County, including HGTC, Coastal Carolina, and the Conway Medical Center. She was a visionary, a coach, and a mentor to many people in Horry County. She was a role model and an inspiration to a generation of business women who came of age during her tenure at the Chamber. In her honor, now her memory, the Chamber of Commerce annually presents the LaVerne H. Creel Lifetime Achievement Award to someone

whose life's work stands as an example of community spirit and working for the common good. The family will receive friends at Goldfinch Funeral Home on Monday, from 5-7pm. The Funeral will be Tuesday at 11 am, Trinity United Methodist Church in Conway. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorials be sent to the Bessie Creel Foundation at Conway Medical Center or the Choir Fund at Trinity United Methodist Church, 198 Long Ave. Ext, Conway, SC. 29526 An online guestbook will be available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com) Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway chapel will be in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



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February 28, 2011 at 06:38 PM



“ *Johnny and children, I am sorry to read about LaVerne's passing. You were together a long time and I know it is hard for you. May the Lord bless you and your family at this time of sorrow and grief and give you peace. Hope you are doing well. Haven't seen you in ages.*##imported-begin##CHARLOTTE R FLOYD##imported-end##

December 26, 2009 at 12:28 PM



“ *Aunt 'Dern, will always be a part of me. My fondest childhood and adult memories are of her. Words cannot describe her loss. While the world is a little bit dimmer and colder now, Heaven just got happier and brighter. Another angel got her wings on Saturday. God bless you Uncle Johnny, Cindy and John. I love you all. Kevin Houk Jefferson City, TN*##imported-begin##Kevin Houk##imported-end##

December 22, 2009 at 08:34 AM



“ Johnny & family, Bill & I send our deepest sympathies to you & your family. We were unable to attend visitation & wanted you to know that we are feeling your sadness. We thought a lot of LaVerne & you and had great respect for your love of family & community. The Wackers##imported-begin##Bill & Beverly Wacker##imported-end##

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December 21, 2009 at 09:12 PM



“ Laverne Creel will always hold a warm spot in my heart. She was a dear friend and valued mentor to me. I first got to know her when I was a volunteer with the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce. She was a mentor to me when I became the chamber executive in Darlington. I became the Executive Vice President of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce in the Spring of 1981, because LaVerne told the search committee that they should hire me. I will never forget her many kindnesses!##imported-begin##Chuck Ewart##imported-end##

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December 21, 2009 at 04:20 PM



“ Johnny and family, We will miss LaVern very much. She was a great friend to us. I loved talking and laughing with her. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless Love gary and Iva##imported-begin##Gary, Iva Finkenbiner##imported-end##

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December 21, 2009 at 03:37 PM



“ *LaVerne was a very compassionate person loved by all. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.##imported-begin##Donald E Johnson##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2009 at 09:49 AM



“ *“Families are the compass that guide us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter.” Brad Henry From what I understand about Mrs. Creel, she was a huge inspiration to not only her family, but others as well. I know family and friends will cherish the legacy she leaves.##imported-begin##Meagan Palmer##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2009 at 09:23 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Creel and extended family in this time of sadness. I remember the hospitality that was extended to our family when Grandpa Bill passed. LaVerne was one of a kind and will be missed by all. May God comfort you in this time of need.##imported-begin##Tashina Venters##imported-end##*

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December 20, 2009 at 10:11 PM