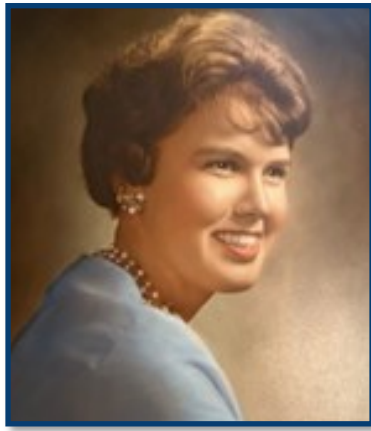




FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Gaynell Simmons Conner

OCTOBER 21, 1934 - OCTOBER 10, 2024



Funeral Service

11 a.m., Saturday, October 12, 2024
The Morehead City Church of Christ, Morehead City, NC

"When We All Get To Heaven"	Hymn #790, Led by Nolan Gann
"It Is Well With My Soul"	Hymn #504, Led by Nolan Gann
"Lord, Take Control"	Hymn #706, Led by Albry Spence
Obituary	Craig Hearne, Minister
Scripture Reading, Prayer	David Price, Minister
"I Close My Eyes"	Supplemental Hymn #5, Led by Albry Spence
"Take My Hand, Precious Lord"	Hymn #686, Led by Joe Gann
"Beyond The Sunset"	Hymn #873, Led by Gilbert Gann
Remembrances	Craig Hearne, Minister
Eulogy	David Price, Minister
"This World Is Not My Home"	Hymn #795, Led by Gilbert Gann
Closing Prayer	Herb Aponte

The service will conclude at Gethsemane Memorial Park.
Please turn on bright lights and hazards in procession.

Pallbearers

John Cape
Neil Fitzpatrick

Geoffrey Edwards
Eddie Hutchinson

Troy Edwards
Ray Spence

The family invites everyone to join them for a reception at the History Museum in Morehead City following the services.

Gaynelle Simmons Conner, 89, of Morehead City, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Gaynelle was born on October 21, 1934, in Newport, NC, to the late Raymond and Betty Simmons. Gaynelle built her life on the principles of faith and her sincere love for the Lord. In August 1948, she was baptized by Elam Kuykendall at the Fresh Pond in Newport, where she professed her faith. Her steadfast devotion was evident in her loyalty to the Church of Christ in Newport until 1987, after which she became a member of The Morehead City Church of Christ.

Professionally, Gaynelle began her career in Civil Service at Cherry Point, where she served as a secretarial assistant to the General. She later worked as a bank teller at First Citizens Bank, where she was a friendly face to so many in our community.

Gaynelle was well known for her love of cooking and was particularly famous for her delicious pecan pies and coconut cookies. Every Friday and Saturday, she lovingly prepared numerous meals that she shared with her church family on Sundays. Gaynelle had the gift of hospitality and always looked forward to hosting her annual luncheons at the Dunes Club. She also played an instrumental role in the Newport Pig Cookin' Contest where she was a founding member of the favorite event.

Gaynelle loved working in her yard, often spending hours 6 hours a day tending to various projects, nurturing her plants and doing everything she could to enhance its beauty. A well-known figure in her Brandywine community, she affectionately earned the nickname "Bag Lady" for her dedication to cleaning up the neighborhood while out for leisurely walks.

As a gifted musician, Gaynelle shared her creativity through song, often composing pieces and playing heartfelt melodies on the piano. Her beautiful alto voice brought joy to many.

Gaynelle maintained an active lifestyle and was serious about fitness, regularly running, and walking up to 30 miles each week. She always had a soft spot for animals and loved them all dearly. She was a huge fan of Wake Forest sports teams, showcasing her passion for athletics. Known for her adventurous spirit, she enjoyed driving around town in her little red Corvette or her blue pickup truck.

Christmas held a special place in Gaynelle's heart. She dedicated herself to planning festive celebrations, beginning as soon as January rolled around. Her impressive collection of over 200 nutcrackers filled her home, which transformed it into a magical Christmas Wonderland for the numerous holiday gatherings and dinners she hosted.

Those remaining to cherish her memory are her son, Jay Conner and wife Carol Joy Conner of Newport, NC; daughter, Kerry Anne Conner-Briggs and husband Dale Briggs of Vass, NC; grandchildren, Barrett-Anne Briggs, and Emi Briggs and fiancé Dawson Bigford, all of Vass, NC; and special caregivers, Michelle Cape, Tawnya Davis, Denise Willis, and Savannah Abney.

Gaynelle's Favorite Passages

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday,
and today, and forever.*

HEBREWS 13:8

*I can do all things
through Christ
which strengtheneth me.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

*And we know that all things
work together for good
to them that love God,
to them who are the called
according to His purpose.*

ROMANS 8:28