



Sarah Lynn Upton Thaggard

September 19, 1939 - September 5, 2023

Sarah Lynn Upton Thaggard, 83, of Fayetteville, NC, passed away peacefully on Tuesday,

September 5, 2023 at Hope Mills Retirement Center.

Sarah was born and raised in Fayetteville, NC. She graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1957 and continued her friendship with several classmates through the years, especially Peggy and Fred James. They shared in each other's lives even in the days before her passing.

Sarah married Gary McNeill Thaggard in 1959. She and Gary had two daughters and they were devoted and loving parents. They lived in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, then on to Brunswick and Athens GA before returning home to Fayetteville. Sarah was a devoted wife for 53 years until Gary passed away in 2012.

Sarah was a dedicated secretary to the NCDOT Resident Engineer for a career that spanned 30 years. For a majority of those years, Sarah worked under the leadership of Buck Clark followed by Sonny Cain. Some of her highway family would say, Sarah was the right hand of the engineer

in many ways. Sarah loved her work and many of those she knew became part of her extended family, such as Joan, Ernest, James, and Ringo to name a few, even her bosses were lifelong friends. Joan has also been by Sarah's side through thick and thin, and was dedicated to her right up to the end.

Sarah was preceded in death by her husband, Gary M. Thaggard; father John W. Upton and mother, Kathleen D. Upton; sister Jeanne U. Freemon; and grandson, Christopher E. Rogers.

Sarah is survived by two daughters, Donna Thaggard Eicher and husband Dennis, Susan

Thaggard Nalls and husband Randy; five grandsons, Ryan Eicher and wife Tamara, Jordan

Eicher and wife Gabby, William Nalls II and wife Evelyn, Cameron Nalls, and Stephen Nalls and

wife Kaylee; three great-grandsons and one great granddaughter, Lucas Eicher, Cayden Eicher,

Bill Nalls, and Grace Nalls; brother John W. Upton, Jr. and wife Nancy; and many nieces and nephews.

Sarah was well-known for her sense of humor. She loved being the center of attention and telling stories to make people laugh. She deeply loved and cherished her family and life-long friends.

Sarah had a deep faith and trust in God throughout her life. She knew her real home was

heaven. In her last days, she often called upon Jesus (and Gary) to come bring her home. For

certain, she is there entertaining family and friends and filling heaven with

laughter.

Sarah enjoyed any type of shopping immensely. Sarah and Gary liked to shop together in their

retirement years and loved going on trips anywhere in NC be it at the coast with family or the

mountains and potteries with friends. Sarah and Gary would often meet their daughters to go

antique shopping and spend time together. Sarah loved going to the beach, which she was able

to do nearly every month over the past 10 years. She loved beach combing and walking on the

boardwalk finding a swing to sit on and watch the waves, as she was unable to navigate walking

on the sand these past few years. She loved Christmas and Christmas decorations, and has

been known to leave her decorations up indefinitely.

She shared family stories with all the cousins over the years and everyone was silent as she

recounted her childhood adventures again in vivid detail. The room would erupt in laughter

as if you were present during these adventures.

Sarah was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a great storyteller

and she was known to embellish ghost stories in such great detail that her young grandsons did

not sleep after hearing them, but they absolutely loved the stories and have recounted the tales

with much laughter over the years.

Sarah attended countless sporting events, plays, awards ceremonies, and graduations for both

her daughters and all of her grandsons. She was never one to watch in silence, she has been known to blurt out kudos during a ceremony and she has been known to yell at an umpire during the grandsons sporting events. She was one of a kind and we would not have it any other way.

Interment will be a private event.

Tribute Wall



“ Sarah Lynn Upton Thaggard

October 09, 2023 at 04:46 AM



“ Sarah Lynn Upton Thaggard

October 08, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ Sarah Lynn Upton Thaggard

October 05, 2023 at 02:31 PM



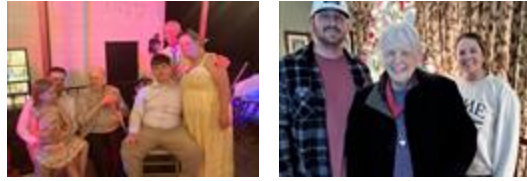
“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Tamara - September 24, 2023 at 12:11 PM

RN

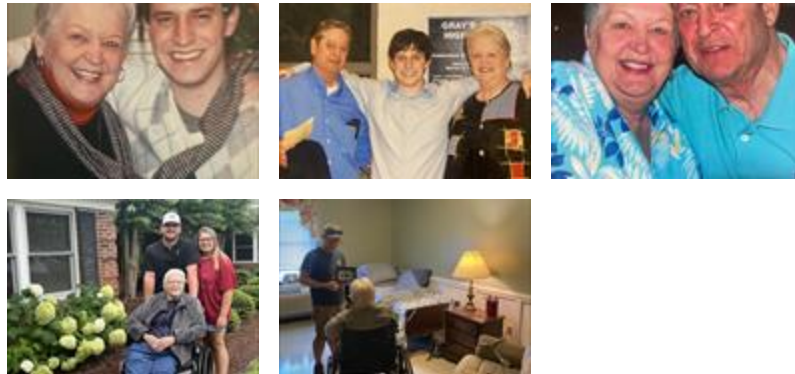
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



RN - September 20, 2023 at 10:24 PM

SU

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Susan - September 20, 2023 at 10:14 PM

JG

“ Mrs. Thaggard taught me how to make paper dolls, tie my shoe, and spell. My Dad was Buck Clark, and Mrs. Thaggard was a great, wonderful, kind human being who I cared for so much and very deeply respected. I'm so sorry for your loss.



Jennifer Clark Gwynn - September 20, 2023 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ Sarah Lynn and I met in elementary school. She was always a kind and happy person, and FUNNY.
Following graduation from high school, we didn't see each other often,
mainly because of marriage, relocation and raising children. One way we did connect was on our birthdays. We both were born on 09-19-39. Our goal each year was to find the funniest and most obnoxious
Birthday cards to send to each other.
After Gary's death and the death of my husband Sterling, we stayed in closer contact - we'd meet with Peggy and have so much fun and laughter reminiscing about our earlier years. I know how much she was looking forward to reuniting with Gary. So, my dear friend, Sarah Lynn enjoy walking thru Heaven with Gary. I'd love to know what you said to Gary when you first saw him - it had to be something crazy funny. I have been so fortunate to have Sarah Lynn as my friend - her humor brightened many days for me.
Rest In Peace - my condolences and Love to the entire family.
Peggy Joyce Gray Baker

joyce gray baker - September 20, 2023 at 10:28 AM

VC

“ We loved spending time with Mrs. Sarah. We shared a lot of laughter and entertaining conversations together. Our trips to NC won't be the same without her. She claimed us as family and the feeling was mutual.

Virgil and Cindy - September 19, 2023 at 06:37 PM

SU

“ 23 files added to the tribute wall



Susan - September 19, 2023 at 06:21 PM

FJ

“ Sarah Lynn and I were friends since grade school and enjoyed being in class together and always sat next to each other as her last name was Upton and mine was Vallandingham. This was a pleasure and sometimes a problem. She had ways to keep me in trouble with the teachers. You didn't want to sit behind her in typing class as she would change your margin setting during a timed test! I KNOW! Sarah Lynn , Gary, me and my husband Fred were friends for years and enjoyed playing cards on the weekends of which she and I would sometimes have to let the men win! There is much more but will have to share later. We talked often when she got where she couldn't come over to see us. I miss those visits but know she is happy being with JESUS and Gary. They were always together and loved their family. May God's love be felt by the family. Love You Sarah Lynn, Peggy and Fred James.

September 19, 2023

Fred & Peggy James - September 19, 2023 at 06:02 PM