



Colleen Wright

January 9, 1938 - March 27, 2023

Colleen had many titles and names, but her favorite by far was “NANA”! Colleen passed away early in the morning on March 27th, 2023, held in the arms of Jesus. Colleen Fay Smiley was born in Danville on January 9th, 1938, to Nora & Charles (Jack) Smiley.

She lived most of her life in Danville, however she and the family have great memories of Newport News and Buckroe Beach during WWII. She is predeceased by both her parents, Nora & Jack, brother’s Jimmy, Glen, and Charles.

She is survived by brother’s Benny Smiley & Keith Smiley, Son Tyler and daughter & son in law, Lynne & Bob Gantt. Grandchildren, Madison & Aaron Webb, Bryn, Collin & Jacob Gantt. Colleen’s life was full of family and friends and food always!

Colleen’s career with Corning Glass works spanned 32 years. So many blessings from her career which allowed her to care for all; as a widowed, single mother, a true force for good in this life. She was a member of Mosely Memorial Methodist Church since the day she was born and would still be holding up the walls if she could!

Colleen was always active with leadership opportunities such as Lay

Leader/Speaker in her church, sharing missions with others, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir and many more, making meals for all. She loved gardening and travel was her best form of education. Favorite trip always was Hawaii, or anywhere her grandbabies were!

A celebration of her life will be held on Friday, March 31st, at 2:00 pm at Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel at 703 North Main Street Danville, VA 24540 with burial in Highland Burial Park. A visitation will be held an hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

The family would like to extend a word of thanks and gratitude to Baylake Retirement Community and to Suncrest Hospice, both of Virginia Beach for the exemplary care given to our loved one.

As a donation, please consider showing someone the love they need today by making them a meal, praying, or just reaching out to keep our connections strong. That's what Colleen would do.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 31. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel
703 North Main Street
Danville, VA 24540
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Colleen Wright*



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - March 30, 2023 at 02:49 PM

BA

A beautiful tribute.

Barbie - March 31, 2023 at 02:26 PM

JW

Fondest Memory:

Our trips to the James River. I would rent a house on the James River near Hopewell VA. One trip Jean Patton & Esther Webb joined us for several days. Another trip Gary & Karen joined us. A wonderful & enjoyable time with family and fishing. No doubt she loved oyster stew and fish more than anyone I knew. Her last visit back to Danville she called and said she was going to join me for dinner. I told her we could have Brunswick stew I had just purchased from church, she said let's have oyster stew. So I went to Old Dutch got the oysters, milk, butter, and crackers. Before moving to Virginia each time I would catch a mess of fish I would clean them and carry them over to Colleen's to cook. She always wanted me to take the leftovers home, but I insisted she keep the fish, which she enjoyed for her breakfast. Colleen had always been a wonderful cook. I remember the first meal I ate Colleen cooked, meatloaf & baked beans. I thought that was the best meal ever. This was just after Colleen & Linwood was married I was around 10 years old.

Funniest Story:

One of our church members Mary Neil Hanks passed away which Colleen had known from years past. I had a ham in the freezer and told Colleen if she would cook it we could take it when we made a visit to the family. The next Sunday at church Larry, Mary Neil's husband hands me a paper towel. It was Colleen's dental partial wrapped inside. The partial had been irritating her gum so she had taken it out and laid on the counter. When covering the ham with aluminum foil somehow she managed to include the partial.

Greatest lesson learned from my loved one:

Colleen was a strong willed woman, but in that strength she also taught me by example compassion, love, and forgiveness. To look to God and his word for answers to life's unexpected challenges and heartaches.

What the world should know about my loved one:

The most important things were her unwavering faith and trust in God and her unconditional love for her family and friends.

What my loved one should be remembered for:

Her special love & commitment to God & family. Even after losing her husband to cancer with 2 young children she trust God to help her raise & provide a loving home.

Even with one income she was able to send Lynne to Virginia Tech University and willing to provide a college education for Tyler.

Jerry Webb - April 01, 2023 at 06:30 AM

JW

“ *The poem*

*You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she's gone
Or cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go
on.*

Author Unknown

Jerry Webb - April 01, 2023 at 06:21 AM

JH

“ *My deepest condolences and many heartfelt prayers go out to Lynn, Tyler and family.*

Colleen was my mom's (Barbara Hancock Starling) best friend for as long as I can remember.

During this period Colleen was like a second mom to me and always gave me the best advice on handling life's many punches. Of all my mom's friends, Colleen was, and will, always remain my most favorite!

Even though I am saddened of her passing, I am sure she and mom are both planning a "heavenly" yard sale already!

Hang in there Tyler.

John Hancock - March 31, 2023 at 01:31 PM

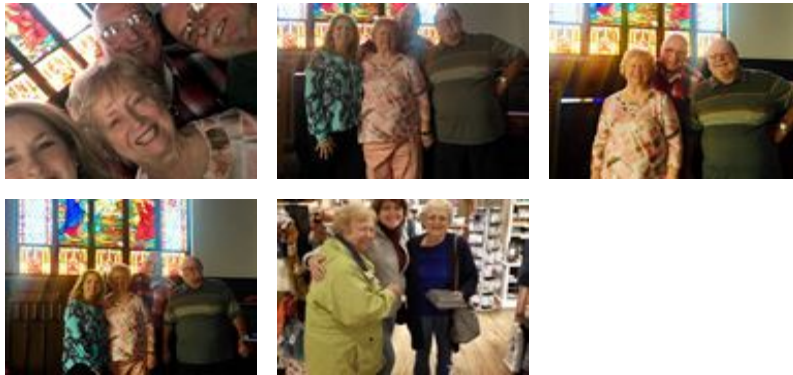
LG

So sweet, mom loved you & Barbara & Jim beyond words 💔

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:18 AM



“ 7 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - March 31, 2023 at 08:09 AM

TC

“ I became friends with Colleen at church. She was a strong, independent woman who fiercely loved God and her family. She had a beautiful smile that she was quick to share and a beautiful voice that she loved to use in the choir. She was a good cook and she loved enjoying food with others. I was blessed to spend a short time with her in her last few days. She will be missed by all who knew her. Prayers for the family as they adjust to life without her.

Terrie Chaplin - March 30, 2023 at 09:09 PM

LG

Thank you for being such a great friend ☐. Your visit blessed us all 🙏🙏

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:20 AM



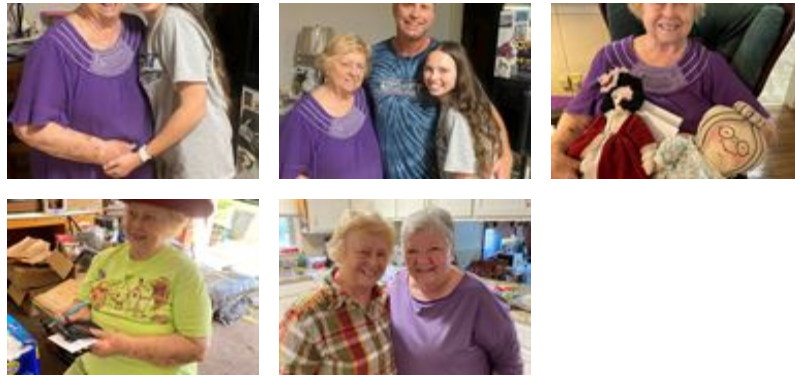
“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Colleen Wright.* ”



March 30, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ *292 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - March 30, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ *2 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - March 30, 2023 at 11:08 AM

VO

“ Hugs and prayers to the family. Colleen was a friend to our family for many years. My dad, Jim Starling, worked with her at Corning. I am sure they are talking it up in heaven now.

Veronda Starling Osborne - March 30, 2023 at 07:22 AM

LR

“ Lynne and Tyler,
I can't believe your mother is gone! I hadn't talked to her in awhile but I've been busy. I had NO Idea she was ill!!! She had this amazing gift to make you feel like you were the most special person on earth! This is a huge loss for our Moseley family. I'm so sorry for you both and your families. I will be lifting you up in my prayers.

Laura Reid - March 30, 2023 at 03:34 AM

LG

Thank you Laura ☐☐

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:21 AM

JD

“ Lynne and Tyler: So sorry to hear of your Mother passing. We had a lot of good times back in the Little League Days and after. She will be missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing her.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AT THIS TIME.
Joe and Martha Doss

Joe Doss - March 29, 2023 at 11:50 PM

LG

What great family memories of baseball & pizza, great times ☐. Those were the days ❤️

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:23 AM

JD

“ Joe Doss lit a candle in memory of Colleen Wright



Joe Doss - March 29, 2023 at 11:44 PM

TS

“ She was always like a second mom 2 me, she was always my go 2 person, if i needed guidance, advice r just 2 listen, she was a person i always looked up 2, she was my hero, im going 2 miss our talks, laughs, cries, and most of yall her beauty, heart and soul, tell mama ,papa webb and uncle lynwood, we love and miss them, and i know u home at peace, love u

teresa smith - March 29, 2023 at 11:06 PM

LG

Thank you, so we'll said ☐☐

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:24 AM

RE

“ I served as Colleen's pastor at Mosely Memorial UMC for 3 years. A beautiful lady with a lovely smile and laughter and a willing heart to serve at Mosely, the church she loved, she will always be remembered. I was blessed to have gotten to know her and send my thoughts and prayers to the family and to all.

Rev. Tim Earnhardt

Rev. Tim Earnhardt - March 29, 2023 at 02:08 PM

LG

Thank you 🙏🙏

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Colleen Wright.



March 29, 2023 at 01:24 PM

BB

“ *R I P Beautiful Lady!*



BRENDA BARTS BRYANT - March 29, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Colleen Wright.



March 29, 2023 at 09:34 AM

DY

“ *Colleen was such a sweet aunt. I always enjoyed the times we were together and she would always take time to share her laughter, her wisdom and her love. I will always cherish the memories I have of her.*

Donna Yeatts - March 29, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Colleen Wright.*



March 29, 2023 at 08:24 AM

KA

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences in the loss of Colleen. We met at Moseley where I enjoyed singing with her in the choir and being in her Sunday School class. She even had me subbing for her when she had to be out to town, walking me through everything I would need to do before hand. Her love for the Lord and her family was obvious if you were around her for five minutes. May the Holy Spirit wrap you in His loving arms of comfort as you walk through this valley.*

Kitty Adkins - March 29, 2023 at 08:18 AM

JW

“ *I Believe*

I Believe Monday morning, March 27, 2023 at 2:20 Am angels escorted Colleen to heaven.

I Believe heaven was what Colleen imagined and much, much more.

I Believe she first sit at the feet of Jesus.

I Believe Jesus told Colleen well done my faithful servant.

I Believe she sang Glory To God with the angels.

I Believe she is now in no more pain, nor sorrows as she has her glorified body.

I Believe she is now with Linwood & other family members that she has dearly missed.

I Believe she doesn't want us to mourn her leaving us, but that is impossible.

I believe she dosen't want us to shed tears, but that also is impossible.

I Believe Colleen wants all to Believe in Jesus Christ as she did.

I Believe

Jerry Webb - March 29, 2023 at 06:36 AM

MS

“ Colleen was my cousin but more importantly she was my friend from Jr High School and we had so many fun times, however we lost contact but about 8 years ago we met up again that I call a "GOD thing" I was bringing my husband off the elevator at Roman Eagle and she was walking down the hall. Needless to say that was awesome and we reconnected and the rest is history. She got me into her Red Hat group and if I wasn't at her house she was at mine. Her kitchen was always open and she was an awesome cook. She loved having people over to eat. She was simply a wonderful person and friend which many can attest to that. When she moved to Virginia Beach we all were very sad. She was a very wonderful friend and I will miss her so very much
Love you Colleen.

Mary Ann Shelton - March 28, 2023 at 08:16 PM

LG

Thank you for being such a great lifelong friend ☐☐

Lynne Webb Gantt - April 01, 2023 at 09:26 AM