

OBITU

Juanita Worsley Williams

Juanita Worsley Williams, age 101, formerly of Farmville, N.C., said her last "God Bless," and went to be with Jesus on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at her daughter Lela's home in Asheville, N.C. She was born in Edgemoorville County on May 18, 1912 to William Henry and Lela Brink Worsley. She grew up in Rocky Mount, N.C. and then entered East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville, N.C. where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in science and math in 1932. Winning second prize in a nationwide contest by writing a theme on the subject, "Chemistry and Household Conveniences," brought honors not only to Juanita but also to her state and college.

Juanita married Rhoderick Thomas Williams of Farmville, N.C. on March 13, 1932 while he was a medical student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During the time they were living in Chapel Hill, Juanita took courses at the University and began studying to be a laboratory technician, finishing her training at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., where her husband was pursuing a degree in medicine. The couple lived in Rocky Mount, N.C. while Dr. Williams was attending at Park View Hospital. In 1939 they moved to Farmville, N.C. where Dr. Williams began practicing medicine.

Mrs. Williams fell in love with the town of Farmville and became active in many civic organizations. The Farmville Junior Woman's Club selected her as its president in 1944. Juanita organized the first successful Girl Scout troop in Farmville and became its leader and was instrumental in getting the Farmville Girl Scout hut built. The project to which Juanita had given so much time and work was recognized by the North Carolina State Federation of Women's Clubs as being the most outstanding in the state.

Juanita had many other accomplishments during her life in Farmville. She was President of the PTA, Social Service League and the Pitt County Medical Auxiliary. She was a member of the Farmville Community Arts Council and was a member of the Pitt County Historical Society. She was the coordinator of the Home Bound Meals program for Farmville and helped to deliver meals for many years. She also served on the America's Four Hundred Anniversary Committee for Pitt County, helping to ~~open~~ museum started for the cause. She was on the Board of Advisors for the May Museum for many years and was chosen as Citizen of the Year in Farmville in 1994. She also served as secretary of Sun, It, Bandy School for several years after her husband died. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Farmville, where she worked with many groups, helped with Bible School and served as Mission Action Chairman.

Mrs. Williams was a devoted member of the Major Benjamin May Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as its Regent and was Director of District VIII from 1981-83. She was elected State Organizing Secretary from 1985-88. She organized the Dr. Robert Williams Society, Children of the American Revolution and served as their advisor and also helped the men of Pitt County organize the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Williams was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and enjoyed playing bridge and traveling. She had a natural gift of leadership and inspired her family, friends, and community to follow her example of love and service and she always tried to see the good in people.

Mrs. Williams was predeceased by her husband, who died January 29, 1964. Surviving are her daughters, Nan Gibson and husband Michael, of Tolebury, Essex, England, and Lu Leonard and husband Don of Asheville, N.C.; son, Dr. Rod Williams and wife Betty of Newport, N.C.; 8 grandchildren: Amy Leonard, Dr. Kerji Leonard and his wife Sarah, Jane Tetart and her husband Oliver, Jack Gibson and his wife Jan; Rhoderick Gibson and his wife Jackie, Colin Gibson and his wife Hattie, Miles Williams, Georgia Ball and her husband Jon; 11 great-grandchildren: Claire, William and Brany Tetart, Tressa Gibson, Ben and Riley Gibson, Hiv and Carys Gibson, Jason and Jennifer Ball, Josie Grace Leonard.

The funeral service for Mrs. Williams will be held at 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday, June 25, at the Farmville Funeral Home with the Dr. Rick Bailey officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 2:30 until 3:30 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Farmville Baptist Church, 3653 East Wilson Street, Farmville, NC 27828; Girl Scouts of Farmville, PO Box 705, Farmville, NC 27828; or the Major Benjamin May DAR, c/o Judy May, Treasurer, #608 NC Highway 121, Farmville, NC 27828.

Online condolences may be made at www.farmvilleffh.com.