



## Ms. Shirley Ann Rhodes

May 6, 1942 - March 2, 2026

Shirley Ann Rhodes, 83, of Piedmont, South Carolina, passed away on Monday, March 2nd, surrounded by her family.

Born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, Shirley was the daughter of the late Leroy and Mabel Drumheller Shanks. Her faith was not just spoken but built: her father was among those who helped design and lay the very cinder blocks of Braddock Road Wesleyan Church in Annandale, Virginia.

She devoted more than 30 years to the Virginia State Police. Starting as a secretary, she went on to spend the majority of her career as a dispatcher, bringing to that role the qualities she naturally possessed: dependable, capable, and steady under pressure. She was a foster mother, a calling she answered out of a deep desire to serve and care for those in need. Those who knew Shirley found a fierce loyalty and a love that ran deep. In her later years, she found her place among the mountains and lakes of the South Carolina Upstate. She loved bluegrass music and her dogs, and enjoyed nothing more than a long drive through the hills.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandra Lynne Peirce (Robert) and Darlene Marie Avila (Steven); her sons, David Arthur Rhodes and Steven Edward Rhodes; her brother, Lee Shanks; and her best friend and cherished member of the family, Kathy Rhodes. Grandchildren: Jeremy C. Peirce, Andrew B. Peirce, Lauren N. Avila (Michael Schmal), Landon C. Avila, Brendan M.

Rhodes, Christian E. Rhodes, Nathan Rhodes, and Chloe Rhodes; and great-grandson Isaac, welcomed this past January.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Tina Boswell.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 1:00 pm at Graceland East Memorial Park in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of South Carolina. <https://www.alz.org/sc/about>

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland East Memorial Park

2206 Woodruff Rd, Simpsonville  
Simpsonville, SC 29681

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Graceland East Memorial Park  
2206 Woodruff Rd, Simpsonville  
Simpsonville, SC 29681

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ *My condolences to Shirley's family. I was one of "Shirley's troopers." Shirley was a true professional at Virginia State Police. She looked out for "her troopers" and was an excellent dispatcher. Shirley always had our backs and kept us out of trouble. She was respected and trusted. Rest in peace Shirley. You ran your race well.*

*Trudy Harris  
VSP/Retired  
Fairfax BCI*

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**Trudy** - March 15 at 05:11 PM

MW

“ *Sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. Shirley was an excellent and well respected employee of the Virginia State Police. I say this from a lot of experience. She kept me out of a lot of trouble. Rest in peace, Shirley.*

*Mark Wilkinson, VSP/Retired  
Div. 7 Area 11*

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**Mark C Wilkinson** - March 10 at 12:23 PM

WC

“ Sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. I had many good memories over the years I worked in 7th Division - Fairfax. I first came to the Division as F/Sgt in 1979. Made Lt. and left for Culpeper Division in 1988. Tranferred back to 7th Dividion Fairfax in 1994 as Hgts. Lt.. Worked there until my retirement 08/01/2001. During those years I could always depend on Shirley to have my back if ever in trouble. She was a great employee and I considered her a friend. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. William Carter, 7th Div. Hgts. Lt. ret. (2001)



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**William Carter** - March 07 at 04:14 PM

KR

“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kathy Rhodes** - March 05 at 08:17 PM

HJ

“ I feel truly blessed to have known Shirley for about five years. She first came to see me after someone else had cut her beautiful long hair short (at her request) and she wanted me to fix it to her liking. She kept it short for a while, though every now and then she'd smile and say, "I'm going to let it grow." Whether it was short or growing out, she always came in with Kathy for their appointments, and those visits were something I always looked forward to.

*Shirley was sharp as a tack, full of life, and such a joy to talk with. Her love for dogs gave us an instant connection, and we spent many appointments talking about them and sharing stories, along with hearing about her time with the police department.*

*The last time I saw her was in December, and something in my heart told me to take her photo that day. I'm so thankful I did. I've shared that photo, along with one from my baby shower of Shirley, Kathy, and me, and my favorite photo of her with Kathy and Kathy's mother, Joan — the three of them smiling and laughing while I made them pose for a quick photoshoot once I had finished their hair.*

*Shirley will always remain one of my favorite clients, but more importantly, someone whose warmth, humor, and bright spirit left a lasting impression on me. She was truly a light in this world, and I feel grateful to have known her.*



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**Haley Jones** - March 05 at 02:30 PM

WB

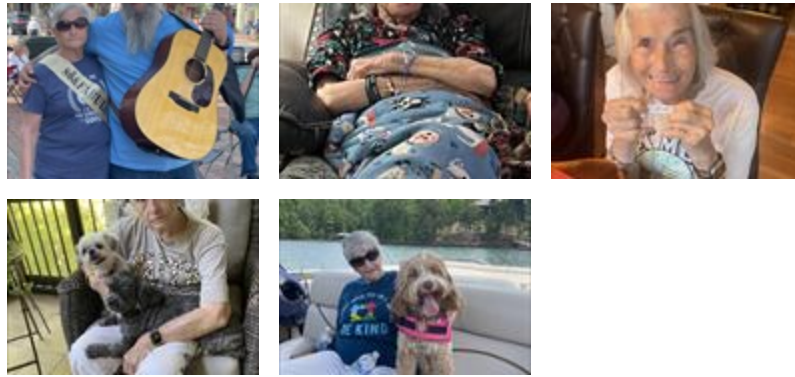
“ Wayne F. Barton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Shirley Ann Rhodes



Wayne F. Barton - March 04 at 09:20 PM

DA

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Darlene - March 04 at 01:30 PM

DA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Darlene - March 04 at 12:28 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album *Photo memories*



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**Darlene Avila** - March 04 at 11:35 AM