



## Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton

May 15, 1935 - December 13, 2019

If strength, love and determination indicate a life well-lived, then Willie Grace (Rochester) Barton assuredly lived well. But even the strongest and most determined must rest. On December 13, she decided it was her time. She was 84 years old.

Having fought valiantly against the ravages of Parkinson's disease, COPD, osteoporosis and macular degeneration, Willie Grace decided to trade all that in for a perfect resting place in her Father God's arms.

Willie Grace was the embodiment of love. She loved learning and she loved teaching. It started early in life. Born May 15, 1935, to Stiles and Mary (Jones) Rochester, she was young when she learned to sew and quilt. She and her mother would spend many hours quilting together. Along with her sisters, found a love of gardening and could grow just about anything.

A graduate of Walhalla High School in 1953, she was active in 4-H and earned state and national honors in gardening. Upon graduation, she decided to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher. She attended Winthrop College, graduating in 1957.

Ready to begin her teaching career, she came back to her family home and began teaching middle school science. After several years, the home

economics teacher retired and Willie Grace jumped at the chance to teach the things she loved, sewing, cooking and additional life skills students needed.

It was serendipity that led her on a blind date with a friend of a friend, and as it happens, love once again reigned. That blind date culminated in marriage to Ralph Barton, November 23, 1957.

While illness forced her to take a break from teaching, she still managed to raise a family, play the organ at church, continue to garden, sew and cook for anyone and everyone who happened to find a spot at the Barton table. And when her children went off to college, she went back, as well. She earned her master's degree in reading from Clemson University and returned to elementary school as a librarian until she retired.

But her greatest love, next to her love for Jesus, was her family. She and Ralph were rarely apart. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, while scattered around the country, were reflected in every picture frame and photo album that could be found. She loved making everyone's favorite foods when they came to visit, and no one ever left Willie Grace's table hungry.

She was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Willie Grace is survived by

Husband, Ralph, of the home

Daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Eddie Hudson and their son, Jonathan;  
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Eddie Macon and children, Natalie and  
Kaylynn; Rockvale, TN

Son and daughter-in-law, William and Mishael Barton and son, Austin; Forest  
City, MO

Grandson, Michael Johnson and children Cole and Westin; Murfreesboro, TN

Grandson, David Johnson and children Liam and Sadie; Murfreesboro, TN  
Granddaughter and husband, Carrie and Jeremy Walker, Gray, TN  
Granddaughter, Katie Macon, Knoxville, TN  
Sister Helen Miller; Chapel Hill, NC  
Sister Frances O'Kelley, Carthage, MO Numerous nieces, nephews and  
cousins from around the country

Her parents preceded her in death, as did sister Gerry Shuler and brother Gus Rochester.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at Davenport Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Oconee Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Wednesday, December 18, 2019 prior to the service at Davenport Funeral Home.

Pall Bearers: David Johnson, David Rochester, Jonathan Hudson, Mike Andrews, Jimmy O'Kelley, Michael Johnson, Micah Martin, and Austin Barton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1405 Ebenezer Rd., West Union, SC 29696 or Prisma Health, Hospice of the Foothills, Cottingham Hospice House, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Dr., Seneca, SC 29672

The family offers special thanks to caregivers, helpers, nurses, doctors, hospice workers and many friends who have helped so much in the past few years.

The family is at the home.



# Cemetery Details

## Oconee Memorial Park Mausoleum

1923 Blue Ridge Boulevard  
Seneca, SC 29672

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home  
311 S Highway 11  
West Union, SC 29696  
(864) 638-3611  
davenportfhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.davenportfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home  
311 S Highway 11  
West Union, SC 29696  
(864) 638-3611  
davenportfhome@gmail.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Davenport Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



**Davenport Funeral Home** - December 16, 2019 at 02:38 PM

TW

*Dear Barton Family, I am so sorry. I have many fond memories of your Mom and all of you when we were growing up at Fairview. We are very busy at work. I don't think I will be able to come to the service but you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Telesa McMahan Weeks.*

**Telesa Weeks** - December 16, 2019 at 08:06 PM



“ *Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM

BH

“ *So sorry to just be learning of the death of Willie Grace. She was a special lady. She will surely have peace and freedom of pain as God will tenderly love her just as Ralph loved her.*

**Barbara S Hightower** - January 31, 2020 at 02:26 AM

WS

“ To Willie Grace's family, I am so sorry for your loss. I was a classmate, Walhalla High.  
Bill Scott

William E Scott - December 30, 2019 at 12:15 PM

BD

“ Bobbie Duncan lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Bobbie Duncan - December 28, 2019 at 12:32 PM



“ Dawn Merritt lit a candle in memory of Mrs.  
Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Dawn Merritt - December 19, 2019 at 09:42 AM

WS

“ I was fortunate enough to have Mrs Barker for 7th grade science, she was the best. She came in to class one day crying, Pres. Kennedy had been shot, I will never forget that day in 1963. I did some telephone work at her house many many years later and she still recognized me, couldn't believe it. A great lady, a great teacher

Walt & Judy Stephens - December 19, 2019 at 09:39 AM

KA

“ *Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



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**Kathy addis** - December 19, 2019 at 12:37 AM

SH

“ *Dear Susan and Jean,  
I am so sorry for the loss of you mama. I remember her being a loving and caring mother to all of you and to me when I was there. And I was there a lot during our high school years. She was one of those special moms that was a mom to all of us. Just wanted you to know I was thinking of you.*

*Your old high school friend,  
Sue Lee Head*

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**Susan Head** - December 18, 2019 at 11:29 AM

MA

“ *Mike and Cindy Andrews purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton.*



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**Mike and Cindy Andrews** - December 17, 2019 at 04:58 PM

JJ

“ My husband, Nelson, go on short term mission trips to Africa, some of which are medical. Mrs. Barton was kind and dedicated in that she always made a donation toward the purchase of the medication. Not only did she minister to the people’s physical needs, she also was instrumental in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ all around the world. She was a very special lady.  
Jonette Jones

Jonette Jones - December 17, 2019 at 04:39 PM

JB

“ Willie Grace was always kind to everyone. She was a beautiful Christian lady! As my cousin, she was a wonderful role model.  
Juanita (Jones) and Dillard Bray



Juanita Bray - December 17, 2019 at 12:45 PM

LT

“ Leland And Richadene Talley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Leland and Richadene Talley - December 16, 2019 at 09:29 PM

KF

“ Kathy Fitzgerald sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Kathy Fitzgerald - December 16, 2019 at 09:13 PM

EB

“ *Elaine Capps Baumgarner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



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**Elaine Capps Baumgarner** - December 16, 2019 at 04:00 PM

HC

“ *Harold Collins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



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**Harold Collins** - December 16, 2019 at 03:12 PM

DB

“ *Dennis & Norma Baumgarner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



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**Dennis & Norma Baumgarner** - December 16, 2019 at 03:10 PM

ST

“ *Schneider Electric / Com'X Team purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton.*



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**Schneider Electric / Com'X Team** - December 16, 2019 at 02:18 PM

JW

“ Jeanette Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Jeanette Wilson** - December 16, 2019 at 01:53 PM

JC

“ I knew Willie Grace as a child attending Pleasant Hill Church. For some reason, she befriended me although I was younger and I remember a very sweet and caring person. What a loving and precious obituary which tells me I missed a lot by not knowing her in our adult life. May her family find comfort in their precious memories. Joan Miller Clute

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**Joan M Clute** - December 16, 2019 at 11:14 AM

ST

“ Sandra Wald Tippett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Sandra Wald Tippett** - December 16, 2019 at 10:20 AM

LT

“ Louise & Clarence Towe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Louise & Clarence Towe** - December 15, 2019 at 10:20 PM

JP

“ James And Maxine Pettit lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



James and Maxine Pettit - December 15, 2019 at 05:39 PM

SD

“ Sonya C Dobson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Sonya C Dobson - December 15, 2019 at 03:42 PM

JT

“ What a beautiful tribute to an equally beautiful soul. Praying God's peace and comfort for all of her family and friends.

Jamie Tilson - December 15, 2019 at 10:48 AM

GB

“ Prayers to the Barton family. I am sorry for your loss. I pray for peace and comfort during this difficult time.



Gwen Burnside - December 15, 2019 at 08:00 AM

JJ

“ *Juanita Burrell Johns lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



**Juanita Burrell Johns** - December 14, 2019 at 10:19 PM

BL

“ *Bobbie Ledford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



**Bobbie Ledford** - December 14, 2019 at 09:35 PM

DA

“ *Don And Darlene Albertson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



**Don and Darlene Albertson** - December 14, 2019 at 07:31 PM

HC

“ *Hovie & Martha Fowler Crenshaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton*



**Hovie & Martha Fowler Crenshaw** - December 14, 2019 at 06:08 PM

RA

“ Rod & Katherine Albertson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Rod & Katherine Albertson - December 14, 2019 at 05:18 PM

WB

“ Wayne Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Wayne Barton - December 14, 2019 at 02:58 PM

WB

*My deepest sympathy & prayers Ralph & family.*

Wayne Barton - December 16, 2019 at 10:34 PM

WB

“ Wayne Barton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



Wayne Barton - December 14, 2019 at 02:42 PM

WB

“ Wayne Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Wayne Barton** - December 14, 2019 at 02:40 PM

JC

“ Joe & Pat Culbertson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Joe & Pat Culbertson** - December 14, 2019 at 01:07 PM

BL

“ Burgess (Bird) Laye lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Grace Rochester Barton



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**Burgess (Bird) Laye** - December 14, 2019 at 12:39 PM