



Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel

June 27, 1948 - December 21, 2021

Elizabeth "Libby" Anne (Watford) Gabel, age 73, of Hartsville, South Carolina, went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Libby lived with her family in Hartsville until the age of 7, when she moved to Southern California for her father to establish a presence for Sonoco. She and William "Bill" Gabel met at Methodist Youth Fellowship in their local church and began dating when she was a junior in high school. They both attended Cal Poly Pomona, where she received her degree in education and married her high school sweetheart, Bill, in 1969.

Libby raised three girls while working as the nursery school director at First United Methodist Church of Riverside. Later, she and Bill were active members of Victoria Community Church of Riverside (now known as The Grove Church). Libby and her family moved back to Hartsville in 1997, to be with her aging parents, where they joined First Baptist Church. Libby enjoyed making crafts for the annual Christmas Bazaar with her dear friends and the fellowship of the Knitwits. She and her husband loved working with children at their church.

When her girls were young, Libby enjoyed camping, lake fishing, stargazing, hiking, and building campfires with her family in the High Sierra mountains. She also developed a love for gardening and later became a master gardener through Clemson University Cooperative Extension. Later on, when her

grandchildren came along, she loved to vacation at Kiawah Island with her extended family. Her two eldest grandchildren went to Clemson University, and one of her greatest joys was cheering on the Clemson Tigers.

Those who knew Libby knew her for her kind and helpful spirit, smiling face, and welcoming personality. Her family meant everything to her and she adored her grandchildren wholeheartedly. In Libby's last days, she gave her family the greatest gift of all... precious time with family and friends of gathering together and leaning upon each other. She brought those who loved her back to what matters most. "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10. God worked through her to the end, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Dan Watford, Sr., and Christine Stanton Watford, of Hartsville, and her brother, James Dan Watford, Jr., also of Hartsville. She is survived by her loving husband, William "Bill" David Gabel, of Hartsville; her sister, Jeanne Watford Garforth, of Clinton, MS; her sister-in-law, Linda Watford, of Hartsville; her daughters, Lisa Gabel Barrows (Colin) of Fuquay-Varina, NC, Laura Christine Gabel, of Hartsville, and LeAnne Gabel Norris (Cooper) of Travelers Rest, SC. She is also survived by her five grandchildren, Gabel and Caroline Barrows of Fuquay-Varina, and Hadley Mae, Hazel Anne, and Henry Norris of Travelers Rest.

A Celebration of Life will be held at First Baptist Church Chapel, 104 E Home Ave, Hartsville, SC 29550, at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 9, 2022, and Dr. Greg Boyd will officiate. The burial will follow on January 10, 2022, at 1:00 PM, at Mountain View Memorial Park, 7 Duncan Rd, Travelers Rest, SC 29690, officiated by Dr. Ryan Goodroe. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Directors are caring for the family.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the extraordinary care

given by the SICU staff at MUSC-Florence. In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Libby's name to First Baptist Church of Hartsville or Samaritan's Purse.

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Memorial Park

7 Duncan Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Chapel
104 E. Home Ave.
Hartsville, SC

Graveside

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mountain View Memorial Park
7 Duncan Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - January 05, 2022 at 03:03 PM

RW

“ *I enjoyed being in the same FBC Sunday school class. My prayers go out for her family. Becky Walker, Durham, NC*

Rebecca Wadsworth Walker - January 21, 2023 at 10:34 AM

FD

“ *Franklin & Gloria DuRant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Franklin & Gloria DuRant - January 07, 2022 at 09:47 AM

CK

“ *Connie And Eddie Knotts lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



connie and eddie knotts - January 06, 2022 at 08:31 PM

CK

*Dear Bill and family, we are so very sorry for your loss , please know that we hold you close in our hearts and prayers .
With much love and sympathy ,*

Eddie and Connie

connie and eddie knotts - January 06, 2022 at 08:36 PM



“ 101 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - January 05, 2022 at 02:59 PM

AC

“ Anna Margaret Tucker & Family - Cheraw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel



Anna Margaret Tucker & Family - Cheraw - January 04, 2022 at 08:35 AM

DA

“ *David And Paula Annas lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



David and Paula Annas - January 04, 2022 at 08:31 AM

WW

“ *Lisa - sending thoughts & prayers to you & your family.*



wanda wegner - January 02, 2022 at 03:24 PM

KG

“ *May the comfort of our loving Savior be with all of you and hold you in His strength. I send the memories of so many children who grew in Libby's care and guidance at First Methodist Church in Riverside. Her gift of love and positive guidance in learning was foundational in the growth of so many children over the years. Her legacy lives on in her family!*
❤️ *Peace, Kathy Gibson*



Kathy Gibson - January 02, 2022 at 01:53 PM

PJ

“ *Laura, so sorry about your mother . Thoughts and prayers for all of you.*



Pat James - December 30, 2021 at 08:40 PM

RW

“ *Rebecca Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Rebecca Walker - December 30, 2021 at 07:06 PM

BQ

“ *Bill And Peggy Query lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Bill and Peggy Query - December 30, 2021 at 03:11 PM

DK

“ *Deb And Tommy Keith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Deb and Tommy Keith - December 27, 2021 at 06:00 PM

DB

“ *Donna Barrett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Donna Barrett - December 24, 2021 at 10:55 AM

DB

My sincere sympathy to your Bill and your entire family. Libby was a sweet, sweet person.

Donna Barrett - December 24, 2021 at 10:56 AM

BP

“ *Bill & Linda Price lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Bill & Linda Price - December 24, 2021 at 10:52 AM

AM

“ *Algie McGregor sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Algie McGregor - December 23, 2021 at 05:14 PM

BG

“ Sorry for your loss. 🙏
Bess and Don Gore



Bess Gore - December 22, 2021 at 01:59 PM

KM

“ *Katie Mincheff lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Katie Mincheff - December 22, 2021 at 01:35 PM

CH

“ *Cindy Harrell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Cindy Harrell - December 22, 2021 at 09:33 AM

RC

“ *Bill, keeping you and your family in our prayers during this difficult time.*



Richard Cook - December 22, 2021 at 08:12 AM

BB

“ *Bo & Lucy Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Bo & Lucy Brown - December 22, 2021 at 07:56 AM

PC

“ *Paul Cannarella Family*



P Cannarella - December 22, 2021 at 07:38 AM

RD

“ *Danny and I and Mom send our prayers during this difficult time.*

Rosemary Dixon - December 22, 2021 at 07:37 AM

MC

“ *Bill, Gail and I are so sorry for your loss. May God wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you at this time of sorrow!*

Maxie Cantley - December 22, 2021 at 01:04 AM

RG

“ *Raymond & Eleanor Garnett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



Raymond & Eleanor Garnett - December 21, 2021 at 11:08 PM

LC

“ *LaJoyce C Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Watford Gabel*



LaJoyce C Chapman - December 21, 2021 at 06:11 PM

PG

“ *My prayers for the entire family.*

Phillip

Phillip Gandy - December 21, 2021 at 06:11 PM

AW

“ *Sweet Libby, my sister Jane Andrews Funderburk so loved you. I can still remember Jane yelling L I B B Y. Two good friends TOGETHER NOW IN HEAVEN. Prayers for your family. Love, Anna Williams*



Anna Williams - December 21, 2021 at 05:27 PM

LS

To the Gabel family. We are so saddened to hear of Libby's passing. First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPS) continues today thanks to Libby's leadership and grace. May all the wonderful memories you have of this extraordinary lady help you through your times of sorrow. Our prayers are with you all. With love and admiration, Lee Ann Salmon (Hall)

Lee Ann Salmon - January 04, 2022 at 05:46 PM