



Mr. Walter M. Somerville

September 22, 1919 - March 10, 2013

Walter G. Somerville, Jr., 93, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March, 10th, 2013, and is now with the Lord. Walt was born in Richmond, VA, September 22, 1919, to the Rev. Walter G. and Hattie Nottingham Somerville, Sr.

A service to celebrate the life of Mr. Somerville will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 11 a.m. at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Reverend Dr. Deborah Conner is officiating. The family will receive friends after the service. Interment will be in Magnolia Cemetery in Hartsville, SC. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home, Hartsville, SC is handling the arrangements.

Walt was the oldest of eight children and the only one to be born in a hospital. Walt graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, and earned his Master's degree from UNC Chapel Hill, along with work on a doctorate program.

He was a lifelong educator and student, first as a teacher and then as a principal in the CMS School System, serving, among others, Spaugh Junior High School and Enderly Park Elementary School. After retirement, he taught English at Queens University and Central Piedmont Community College. As an educator, he influenced great numbers of students. He often would remark about someone, "I had him/her at Spaugh".

Walt was the patriarch of his neighborhood and his family. Affectionately known as "Papa" or Uncle Walt, or simply, Walt, he was loved and admired by everyone he met, and was a Virginia gentleman to all. He always stood up

when someone entered the room, and insisted on shaking hands. He enjoyed discussing favorite Bible verses, anything related to his beloved home state Virginia, the Civil War, or the latest book on Abraham Lincoln. His memory was exceptional, and he was able to recall Bible verses, poems, names, places, events, and dates without fail. When asked a question, he would often respond first in English, and then add the Latin, French, or German translation.

He was a faithful and stalwart supporter of his Christian faith and his church, Myers Park Presbyterian, and loved the Rhodes-Johnston Sunday School class, which he often led. His favorite Bible verse, Phillipians 4:13, came to him from his father, who would add that to the letters he wrote.

He also loved his friends at Carmel Country Club, and enjoyed many holiday and family celebrations there, where he would always stand and ask blessings on the meal.

Walt will be greatly missed by his family and his friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 22 years, Lucille Kidd Somerville, and by his second wife of 31 years, Louise Pennington Buie Somerville. He was also preceded in death by brothers, Smith Severn Somerville, Rev. Edward Marcellus Somerville, James Somerville, Dr. William Somerville, and by a sister, Helen Somerville Able. He is survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Atwell and Margaret Somerville of Orange, VA, Jim and Mary Rice Somerville of Franklin, WV, and Dr. John N. Somerville of Montreat, NC; his daughter, Luann Somerville Elliott and her husband, Ron Elliott, and her daughter, Katie Moore. He is also survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Roderick Jackson and Cammie Buie, Jr.; W. David and Julia Buie II; and Craig Pennington and Claire Buie, all of Charlotte, SC; grandchildren, Anne Maitland Buie, Scott Roderick Buie, Sarah Elizabeth Buie, William D. Buie, III, Thomas Jackson Buie, Elizabeth Garrett Buie, Emma Ruth Buie, Katie Moore. Memorials may be made to Presbyterian College, 503 S. Broad St., Clinton, SC, 29325, or to the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Cemetery

140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Previous Events

Service

MAR 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Myers Park Presbyterian Church
2501 Oxford Place
Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 927-1284
season@myersparkpres.org
<http://www.myersparkpres.org/>

Visitation

MAR 13. 11:45 AM (ET)

Myers Park Presbyterian Church
2501 Oxford Place
Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 927-1284
season@myersparkpres.org
<http://www.myersparkpres.org/>

Service

MAR 13. 4:00 PM (ET)

Magnolia Cemetery
140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Tribute Wall

JT

“ I was so sorry to see Walt's obituary in the paper. I was privileged to know him at church. He was a delightful, kind, caring and a pleasure to be around. I am thankful to know I will see him again. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you all as you go through the grieving process. I know you miss him as I do.

Jo Thompson - November 11, 2014 at 11:07 AM

LB

“ *Luann and Family*
my thoughts and prayers with you and your family
Lynn Brinkley Boger

Lynn Boger - March 12, 2013 at 09:29 AM

KD

“ *Walt was such a special person. I loved to talk with him, especially talking about his early teaching career. In fact, one of his first assignments was at Sherrill's Ford where I went to school. He remembered his very first students. They kept in touch, even after so many years. Everybody loved Walt and Beezie. A very special person!*
Kay Dumas

Kay Dumas - March 12, 2013 at 08:41 AM

SC

“Walt was my neighbor for over 30 years. He was one of the dearest people I have ever had the privilege to know. He loved the Lord in such a deep, personal way that is rare. He taught a Bible class at his church until he got sick in October, 2012.

Everyone on our "corner" of the street loved Walt--old as well as very young. He loved everyone back.

When his wife, Beezie was sick with Alzheimers, they had a visiting nurse who stayed with her most of the time; but Walt wouldn't leave her. The rare times he left were only for necessities--like to go to the grocery.

He wanted to care for her until the end because he knew that no one could ever love and care for her as he did.

He loved sweets. When I invited him over for dinner, he always brought a box of candy with him. He dressed up with his white shirt and traditional bow tie. He always anticipated the special dessert that he knew I had made for him knowing that he would have a big piece to eat after dinner as well as one to take home with him.

Walt loved to read. He actually was a voracious reader. So am I. So I often took him books that I thought would be of particular interest to him.

When I was visiting him at his house, the telephone wouldn't stop ringing. His friends from all over would continue calling him about one thing or the other. It might be to check up on him, or find out what the Sunday School lesson would be, or an offer to take him out for dinner, or something else. The calls made him feel the love that everyone held for him.

Walt still drove his car until he got sick in October. That is a remarkable feat for someone of his age. He was very careful and never had an accident--at least that I know of.

Last night when his dear family and friends gathered at his home for a bite to eat and gather to reminisce about him, little Jackson who is a 3 year-old neighbor who loved Walt dearly, couldn't figure out where Mr. Walt was. He was so perplexed hunting for him that it broke my heart. The two of them loved each other since the day he was born.

So, as we plan to send our precious friend off to be with his Jesus,

we will all cherish all of our joyful times with him.

Sally Crowell

Sally Crowell - March 11, 2013 at 07:06 PM

PM

Walt and Beezie were very special people. Beezie was our daughters' counselor at Carmel Jr High. After They retired they both took my golf class at CPCC. Beezie was a very skilled golfer so she wanted Walt to learn how to play so they could play together. Bob, my husband repaired and refinished antique furniture as a hobby and fixed many things for Walt. Beezie and I enjoyed playing golf together. I will miss Walt at HT, we always had long conversations. I understand a daughter in law has learned to make the mints. Beezie made them for our daughters' wedding. Keep up the tradition!
Peggy and Bob McDonald

Peggy McDonald - March 13, 2013 at 01:47 PM