



Charles Witherspoon



HICKORY

Charles Thomas Witherspoon passed away at his home Tuesday, May 13, 2014, after a lengthy illness.

He was born on June 21, 1931, and the son of the late Thomas Love Witherspoon and Lois Bostain Witherspoon. A lifelong member of Bethany Lutheran Church, he met his future wife, Martha Jeannette Coulter, and they married at Bethany Oct. 13, 1951. The late W.D. Bostain, his maternal grandfather, was a charter member of Bethany where many relatives still attend.

He began working at age 8, mowing lawns and delivering newspapers and later on, at a local shoestring factory. During the Korean War, Charles served from 1950 to 1954 in the Navy as a Second Class Gunner's Mate. After service, he worked as a Fixer at Viewmont Hosiery and in 1956, after the birth of his first born child, he began work at Hickory Good Housekeeping Shop, Inc. Throughout the years, Charles and Martha, purchased stock from the previous owners, until it eventually became a family-run business. He built a building on Springs Road in 1975, where Hickory Good Housekeeping is currently located and managed by his son.

Charles loved to travel and was a man of many talents. He spent his spare time golfing, fishing, working in carpentry, repairing vehicles and photography. He was very active in the Hickory Post 48 of the American Legion in Hickory, where he was past Commander and held other positions at that Post. His yearly scrapbook won many awards at the American Legion State Conventions.

In the late 60s, Charles was instrumental in the organization and beginning of an annual fundraising campaign for Post 48 to benefit the Building Fund, which is still active today. He also assisted the Catawba County Counsel for the Arts to organize their yearly Gala, as well as supporting the Elks Club selling tickets for their annual fundraiser, the Harley Davidson motorcycle drawing.

Charles will be deeply missed by family, friends and the community.

Charles is survived by his wife, Martha Jeannette Coulter Witherspoon; daughter, Sheila Love Witherspoon Rudisill and son-in-law, David Timothy Rudisill, of Vale; son, Charles (Chuck) Thomas Witherspoon Jr. and daughter-in-law, Crystal Williams Witherspoon, of Conover; daughter, Julia Anne Witherspoon Aliberti and son-in-law Jeffery (Jeff) Michael Aliberti, of Hickory; grandson, Joseph Leland Witherspoon and wife, Melissa Korynne Witherspoon, of Hickory; a brother, Robert (Bob)

Witherspoon and wife, Beatrice (Bea), of Richmond, Va.; a sister, Brenda Witherspoon Fox and husband, David, of Hickory; brother, Harry Witherspoon and wife, Margie, of Hickory; along with many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, in the chapel at Bass-Smith Funeral Home in Hickory, with the Rev. Dan Duke officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Military honors will be provided by American Legion Post 48.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to: Bethany Lutheran Church, 1644-Main Ave. Dr. NW, Hickory NC 28601.

Bass-Smith Funeral Home in Hickory is serving the family of Charles Thomas Witherspoon and online condolences may be sent to www.bass-smithfuneralhome.com.



Helen "Polly" Stokes

HICKORY

Helen "Polly" York Stokes, 95, of Hickory, passed away Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at Catawba Regional Hospice.

Born April 23, 1919, in Catawba County, she was the daughter of the late John Samuel and Sarah Hefner York. Polly was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She attended St. Peters Lutheran Church in Conover.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Odell Stokes Sr.; daughter, Barbara Stokes Dellinger Robinson; son, Odell "Butch" Stokes Jr.; and grandson, Terry Gene "Geno" Stokes Jr.

Survivors include her children, Terry Gene Stokes Sr. and wife, Donna, of Mt. Holly, Peggy Stokes Eckard and husband, Dalthard, of Tupelo, Miss. and Paula Stokes Walker, of Hickory; grandchildren, Denise Stokes Hall, Jackie Barkley, Tracy Kuhnemann, Dax Eckard, Ashlee Biccum and Erin Burns; and 17 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday, May 16, at 12 p.m. at Catawba Funerals & Cremations, with the Rev. Paul D. Birner officiating. Burial will follow at Catawba Memorial Park. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to St. Peters Lutheran Church, 6175 St. Peters Church Rd., Conover, NC 28613 or Catawba Regional Hospice, 3975 Robinson Rd., Newton, NC 28658.

Condolences may be left at www.catawba-memorialpark.com.

Catawba Memorial Park, Funerals & Cremations are providing professional services to the Stokes family.

Send your condolences

Visit www.hickoryrecord.com to read the obituaries on this page and sign the guest book for the family.

Rotary Club honors teachers

HICKORY — Hickory Rotary Club recently named the 2014 Teacher of the Year for the Hickory Public Schools.

The award is given in memory of Wilmer M. Jenkins, who served as superintendent of Hickory Public Schools and was a member of Hickory Rotary Club. Teachers nominated for this year's award were Patricia Hines, Northview Middle; Cammie Rowe Driver, Grandview Middle; Patricia Middleton, Jenkins Elementary; Tara Triplett, Longview Elementary; Rebecca Morford, Viewmont Elementary; Caitlan Reese, Oakwood Elementary; Sheng Yang, Southwest



Shown (from left) are Patricia Hines, Rebecca Morford, Verna Breland, Laura Hedgepath, Caitlan Reese, Cammie Rowe Driver, Tara Triplett and Patricia Middleton.

Elementary; Laura Hedgepath, Hickory Career & Arts Magnet; and Verna Breland; Hickory High.

This year the selection committee chose Verna Breland of Hickory High as Teacher of the Year 2014.

Each nominee receives a check for \$500, and the Teacher of the Year receives \$1,000.

Lawsuit

From Page 1A

eligible to receive the one salary-step increase will get a \$1,000 salary and benefit increase, also effective July 1, according to the governor's budget.

According to the state statute, magistrates are paid a certain amount based on the number of years of service.

The budget calls for a 2 percent increase for state employees.

"State employees who have been 'frozen' on early pay steps for several years, specifically the Highway Patrol, Magistrates and Deputy and Assistant Clerks of Court will, on average, receive larger pay increases," the proposed budget says.

Scott Jones, an attorney with the Asheville law firm Cloninger, Barbour

Searson & Jones, who is representing the magistrates, said Wednesday the amount magistrates are supposed to be paid is set out in a state statute — GS7A-171.1. He said in 2009, the state stopped paying magistrates according to the state law.

And the money magistrates haven't been paid is nothing to sneeze at, he said.

"It's a sizable amount of money," Jones said.

Jones said it's not just the 40 magistrates named in the lawsuit. The lawsuit says there are several hundred magistrates across the state who haven't been paid what they should.

Jones said a total of how much the state failed to pay magistrates has not been determined yet.

The lawsuit is asking a judge to declare it a class-action lawsuit. It also requests a jury trial and

that interest be added to whatever is awarded, as well as make the state pay the magistrates' attorneys' fees.

The lawsuit says the magistrates have lost pay and benefits, including retirement benefits.

State representatives told magistrates numerous times to wait for the state to address its failure to pay what the magistrates were promised, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit says the state never denied its obligations under the magistrates' contracts and money was in the state budget to honor the contracts. The state not honoring its contracts has caused the magistrates financial hardships, the lawsuit says.

By its purchase of liability insurance, the state waived the right of immunity it might otherwise have from being sued, the

lawsuit says.

Jones said the reason the lawsuit was filed in Burke County is because one or more of the magistrates named in the lawsuit are from the county.

Magistrates named in the lawsuit are from counties including Burke, Catawba, Davidson, Swain, Cherokee, Wilson, Graham, Randolph and Cumberland.

"This is just a straightforward legal matter," Jones said. "You can't make a contract and then break it."

Jones said the state will likely respond to the lawsuit within 30 to 60 days after it has been served.

Noelle Talley, spokesman for the N.C. Attorney General's Office, said the N.C. Department of Justice received a copy of the magistrates' lawsuit Wednesday and is reviewing it.

Meal

From Page 1A

crowd ventured to Lenoir-Rhyne.

Pasta, pizza, sandwiches, ice cream, cake and other selections were available.

"Normally, we would have 25 to 30 students left on campus," Executive Chef Eddie Wesson said. "We had to step it up."

Wesson said they prepared enough meals to feed 150 people. Only 80 showed, Young said.

"A lot of people are sitting around a table like it's a family reunion," said Carmen Bauer, a Hickory Soup Kitchen client.

Clayton Smalley added: "It's like coming to a nice restaurant. I think that sign that says 'Healthy for Life,' should say 'And serve the community,' more than just tonight. They should do it more often."

As visitors filled their plates and went back for more, some stopped to thank Anderson and Scarvey for what they did.

"Thank you. All the families in here ... people with children, you've brought a smile to their face," Smalley said.

Anderson and Scarvey hope the community outreach will continue.



Lenoir-Rhyne seniors Simone Anderson (left) and Quinn Scarvey discuss how they are using their unused meals to help feed the needy at the Cromer Dining Hall.

"I've put a bug in people's ear," Scarvey said. "Since we're both going into education, it's heart-

breaking to see kids who don't have everything they need. It's wonderful (to be able to do this)."

McCrorry

From Page 1A

doing transparent accounting."

Critics of the Republican budget and last year's tax overhaul said the proposal fell short because it lacks the money to make needed investments in education, health care and infrastructure. McCrorry's plan also finds savings from the current budget to help cut costs that are sure to raise the ire of educators and hospitals.

The governor wants the University of North Carolina system to cut 2 percent from its budget, with some exceptions, or about \$44 million. Such reductions have been asked of university leaders for years. He's also decided to keep funds for teacher assistants in grades K-3

at current-year levels for next fall, rather than expanding funding to address enrollment increases.

"I believe that giving our current teachers and public school employees a pay increase is a higher priority than hiring additional assistants at this time," McCrorry wrote in a letter to the budget adjustments he wants starting July 1.

State employees and teachers have received one pay raise since 2008.

The governor also wants to increase the special assessment hospitals pay to drawn down larger Medicaid payments for the state and hospitals from the federal government. The change, while resulting in only \$15 million more for the state, comes as hospitals are struggling with increased costs for Medicaid patients.

"Our community hos-

pitals cannot continue to offset state underpayments for Medicaid and fulfill our role as the health care safety net and our mission to care for any North Carolinian, all day, every day," North Carolina Hospital Association Executive Vice President Hugh Tilson said in a release.

McCrorry wants to give teachers with at least eight years of experience raises ranging from 2 to 4.3 percent. McCrorry and legislative leaders already agree they'll raise the minimum salary for early-career teachers this year to \$33,000. Most state employees would see \$1,000 more — \$809 of which would go to higher salaries, with the rest going to their pension totals, Pope said.

House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rocking-

ham, were generally positive about the proposal, which would raise spending by 1.7 percent compared to this year's budget but keeps spending flat compared to the current second-year plan already in law.

"We think it's great progress, and we think it's something we can build on," said Tillis, R-Mecklenburg.

But Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue, D-Wake, said McCrorry is "playing shell games with the money the state has left hoping voters will forget about the giveaways," Blue said.

It's the Senate's turn to create the first version of the budget adjustment bill, followed by the House. Then they will compromise on a plan to send to the governor for his signature, hopefully before the new fiscal year begins.