



## Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs

September 6, 1939 - July 6, 2025

Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs, 85, passed away Sunday July 6th at Gordon Hospice House in Statesville, NC.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8th, at the Power Cross Ministries' Fred Riggs Youth Center located at 1129 West Front Street in Statesville. A celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 9th, at Bethlehem Methodist Church located at 607 Bethlehem Road.

Ann was born on September 6th, 1939, in Mount Airy, North Carolina. She was the 11th child of Benjamin Harrison Childress and Alice Angeline Thomas Childress. She grew up in a house without indoor plumbing, yet by the time of her death her life's journey would include trips to 50 countries across six continents and all 50 states to see all of God's beauty.

Through it all her greatest joy came from the life and family she started with her husband Isaac Fred Riggs. She married the love of her life in 1957 and embarked on a life filled with love, laughter, and travel that spanned 46 years until her husband's passing in 2003.

The couple moved to Statesville and in 1968 founded Interstate Bolt and Supply on Front Street, the present home of Power Cross Ministries. While Fred and Ann built the business together, Ann also served as a vital contributor at Grant Bookkeeping Services where she was employed as an accountant for 30 years.

Ann filled her life and the lives of those around her with warmth, laughter and the resolve to help others. During her lifetime she volunteered as a Pink Lady

at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville; was a Turtle Nest Mom in Oak Island, North Carolina; started a telephone ministry for widows and widowers checking on them daily to make sure they were okay; was a longtime supporter of Power Cross Ministries and was a member of Bethlehem Methodist Church.

She viewed flip flops as essential year-round wear, loved collecting seashells and spending time at her beloved Oak Island, NC. She was an avid square dancer and traveled to many clubs and events across the southeast. Ice cream was a logical dinner entre and when it came to Canasta, well, "deal the cards." Regardless of how high these things might appear on her list of favorites, her greatest love was for family - immediate, extended and the friends who she treated as her family.

She was Mom to two daughters, Annette Freeland (husband Scott) and Tammy Littlejohn (husband Spencer) as well as Grandma to three grandsons Ben Stikeleather (wife Melissa), Josh Stikeleather (wife Kayla) and Alex Childress (wife Patti). She had two step-grandsons, Jason Freeland (wife Cassie) and Josh Freeland. She was Grandma-Grandma to her six great-grandchildren Grace, Carter, Luke, Savannah, Sophia and Olivia. She was Aunt Ann to many nieces and nephews.

The youngest of the Childress family she was preceded in death by six brothers: Clinton, Donald, Tom, Benton, Fred and Claude and four sisters: Dorothy Slate, Faye Bernelle Easter, Loudean Jackson and Vannie Felts. The family wishes to express their appreciation for the cards, prayers, and visits Ann received during her illness. Ann was extremely grateful to the doctors who treated her and to all her caregivers who assisted her in the final weeks. She loved you all.

Ann requests that you wear bright casual clothing to all events.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to one of the following: Bethlehem Methodist Church, 607 Bethlehem Rd, Statesville, NC, 28677 or Power Cross Ministries - [www.powercross.org](http://www.powercross.org), Power Cross, 1133 W. Front Street, Statesville, NC 28677 or Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection

Program - [okiseaturtle.org](http://okiseaturtle.org), Friends of Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program, P.O. Box 92, Oak Island, NC 28465.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Riggs family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

JUL 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Power Cross Ministries' Fred Riggs Youth Center  
1129 W. Front Street  
Statesville, NC 28677

## Celebration of Life

JUL 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Methodist Church  
607 Bethlehem Road  
Statesville, NC 28677

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ So Sorry, for your loss. Ann was always a sweet lady, who enjoyed square dancing. 🙏🕊️😊

Karen Rakes - July 12, 2025 at 08:19 AM

KM

“ I'm so sorry to read of Ann's passing. I haven't seen her in many years but have fond memories of her. She was a wonderful lady! Prayers for Tammy and Annette and the rest of her family.

Kimberly Martin - July 09, 2025 at 08:17 PM

CC

“ To the Riggs family. So sorry to hear the sad news about Ms. Ann. Such a sweet soul. We will miss seeing and talking to her at dances.

Curt Braffet, square dance caller - July 09, 2025 at 08:50 AM

MR

“ Ben, Melissa, and all your family,  
We are very sorry to hear of the passing of your grandmother. You are in our thoughts and prayers now and in the hard days ahead. May God bless you and comfort you with lots of happy memories ❤️  
Keith and Mary Jo Reece  
Canton, NC

Mary Jo Reece - July 08, 2025 at 05:22 PM

LC

“ Linda Carlton lit a candle in memory of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs



Linda Carlton - July 08, 2025 at 04:40 PM

LC

I am sending my condolences and prayers 🙏❤️ to all of the family members. I was so Sad and heartbroken 💔😞 to hear the news about Ann. I have know her a very long time and she was like a grandma to me & my Sister. She was a wonderful person and friend to us. My Sister and I helped her once a month cleaning and anything else she needed assistance with. She was a wonderful person and friend to us, she was like our family! We Loved her very much and I will treasure every moment I got to spend with her, and all the great Memories we shared ❤️ together! I will Truely Miss her Always and I will Never Forget her! She always put everyone first and herself last! Very Special loving Christian 🕊️❤️ lady!!!! She Truely Loved all of her Family and Friends!

Love,  
Linda Carlton

Linda Carlton - July 08, 2025 at 04:57 PM

NL

“ Nancy L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs.



Nancy L. - July 08, 2025 at 04:24 PM

AF

“ *Almarea Shattuck and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs.*



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**Almarea Shattuck and family** - July 08, 2025 at 02:51 PM

RR

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with all of the family. We squared danced with Ann for many years. She was a good friend and we loved spending time with Ann. RIP Roger and Vickie Routh*



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**Roger & Vickie Routh** - July 07, 2025 at 09:45 PM

MI

“ *Minaz. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs.*



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**Minaz.** - July 07, 2025 at 04:36 PM

MI

“ *Minaz. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs.*

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**Minaz.** - July 07, 2025 at 04:36 PM

DK

“ Debar (Debbie) Kerley lit a candle in memory of Anna (Ann) Childress Riggs



Debar (Debbie) Kerley - July 07, 2025 at 01:32 PM

DK

We are so very sorry for your loss.  
She was an amazing lady !!  
I loved her smile and laugh. I go by Debbie but she always called me by my birth name, Debra.  
I loved that about her. She was gracious and kind and she sure loved her family and friends .  
I loved to hear about how her family was doing and about all her trips and adventures. She always took the time to see how my family and I were doing . It was an honor to know her and I will never forget her and how she greatly impacted my life and sooooo many others! Sending prayers, love, and hugs to the entire family. 🙏🙏

Debar (Debbie) Kerley - July 07, 2025 at 01:50 PM

SB

“ Ann's passing into the arms of Jesus and seeing Fred again is how I hope you can celebrate her life. She was a dear Christian sharing the love of God and a great witness of Jesus. I enjoyed my YAH trips with her as my roommate and many days playing canasta. May God surround you with his peace and love. Sandy Brewer

Sandy Brewer - July 07, 2025 at 01:13 PM

ME

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Even though it hurts I know the entire family is having one heck of a reunion in Heaven. I'm sending love and prayers to the family and I love you. She will surely be missed.

Michelle Edwards - July 07, 2025 at 12:52 PM

BT

“ Sorry to hear of Ann’s passing! One of my oldest friends and Sq are dancers! Loved Ann



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**Bonnie Pennix Taylor** - July 07, 2025 at 12:33 PM

TA

*My mom loved to square dance! Send me your contact info.  
Tammylittlejohnwa@gmail.com*

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**Tammylittlejohnwa@gmail.com** - July 21, 2025 at 02:38 AM