



## Barbara Suzanne McAlister

July 4, 1945 - May 23, 2026

Barbara Suzanne McAlister, 80, peacefully went to be with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on May 23, 2026, at her home in Newton, North Carolina.

She was born on July 4, 1945, in Hume, New York, to Donald and Jean Phillips. In 1951, the Phillips family left for Brazil to be missionaries, where they established Youth for Christ. She became fluent in Portuguese and always loved her second home country. After returning to the United States, Barb met the love of her life, Dale, while attending a church in Idaho. Barbara and Dale were missionaries, serving with New Tribes Mission for many years. They primarily served in the Kuman tribe of Papua New Guinea.

Barbara was known by all to be a fun, loving person. Patriotic, she enjoyed knowing she was born on the 4th of July. She deeply loved people and was known as an encourager, especially showing her love through hospitality and letter writing. Barb was devoted to her family, dearly loving each of their children and grandchildren. The theme of her life was Great is Thy Faithfulness. Even though she went through hard times, she clung to the faithfulness of God as the source of her joy.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Jean Phillips, her brother, David Phillips, and her sister, Joanna Hovater.

She is survived by her husband, Dale McAlister, her children, Stephen McAlister, Bryan McAlister, Lori (Tim) Seaborg, Calvin (Jenny) McAlister, 14 grandchildren, and her sister Donna Phillips.

The family will receive friends on Monday, June 1, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM with a celebration of life service following at 11:00 AM at Grace Alliance Fellowship in Statesville, NC with Rev. Alton Ray and Rev. Chuck Wall officiating. Burial will follow the service at 2:30 PM at Salisbury National Cemetery.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Alliance Fellowship  
773 Mocksville Hwy  
Statesville, NC 28625

## Funeral Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Grace Alliance Fellowship  
773 Mocksville Hwy  
Statesville, NC 28625

## Graveside Service

JUN 1. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Salisbury National Cemetery  
501 Statesville Blvd  
Salisbury, NC 28144



# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.*



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June 01 at 12:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.

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June 01 at 12:40 AM

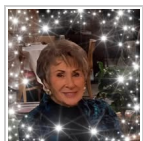


“ From Bill and Lisa Carrier purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.



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From Bill and Lisa Carrier - May 30 at 04:34 PM



“ Words don't adequately express the love Skip and I have for this wonderful godly woman and her husband Dale. Barbara is the one missionary who truly touched my heart. And made missions so interesting to me. Jesus shined through Barbara. Everyone who knew her became a better person. We will see you again Barbara when we're all together on that wonderful day in heaven we love you and miss you.

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Charolette Lane - May 30 at 12:17 PM

SH

“ It has been an honor to be the nephew of Aunt Barb. Over the years we have seldom met in person, but Uncle Dale's and Aunt Barb's love for the Lord has always been an inspiration to both Jenny and I. Thanks for finishing the race (2 Timothy 4:7) so well. Give Jesus a big bear hug! - Your nephew Scott

Scott Hovater - May 29 at 11:33 PM

TK

“ The Hovaters (Joanna's kids) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.



The Hovaters (Joanna's kids) - May 29 at 11:24 PM

TK

“ The Hovaters (Joanna's kids) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.

The Hovaters (Joanna's kids) - May 29 at 11:24 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Suzanne McAlister.



May 28 at 08:23 PM

DW

“ *What a beautiful story of a life well lived.*

Denise Wall - May 27 at 07:43 AM

SC

*I thank the Lord for this Godly woman and her beautiful family.*

Shirley Clendenin - May 28 at 10:59 PM

EP

*Beautiful legacy! I will miss Barbara.*

Evelyn Pearsall - June 01 at 01:28 PM