



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.

Cemetery Details

Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144

Upcoming 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