



Billie Brawley

June 29, 1934 - June 23, 2025

Billie Cress Sherrill Brawley (90) - 1934-2025

"Music is well said to be the speech of angels."

Billie Brawley, beloved mother and grandmother, who inspired innumerable young people with her passion for music, passed away on Monday, June 23, 2025 in Mooresville, NC. Her enthusiasm for life and her effervescent personality endeared her to all she met. She was born to the late Zoie Spears Deaton and Vance H. Sherrill on June 29, 1934. After graduating from Troutman High School, "Billie Cress" attended Mitchell College and graduated from Catawba College in 1956. She was honored to serve as May Queen at both colleges. A well-known and respected music educator, she taught public school music at Davidson, Cornelius, and Huntersville Elementary Schools for over thirty years. She directed numerous plays and performances and helped each student find his or her own unique voice in the grand symphony of life.

"Mrs. Brawley" also taught piano to thousands of budding musicians. Recital Day was always her favorite. Billie was an accomplished pianist and organist having served as Organist at Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, and First Baptist Church in Mooresville, NC, where she also directed many youth choirs. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, where she had served as a Deacon and an Elder. Other organizations she devoted her time and energy to included NCMEA (North

Carolina Music Educators Association), AAUW, Mooresville Garden Club, and the Iredell Community Concert Association.

She married Ray A. Brawley, the love of her life, in 1956, and they cherished their 62-year marriage. He preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her brother Bob Sherrill.

She is survived by her daughter Rebecca (Becky) Brawley Thompson; her son Bradley R. Brawley (Samantha); five grandchildren: Elizabeth Nanney (Hunter), Avery Thompson, Katy Lackey (Justin), Jeffrey Brawley (Dakota), and Will Thompson. She is also survived by five great grandchildren: Brawley, John Hunter, Elliott, Brooks, and Jace. She leaves behind a legacy of love and light, and the gift to translate "the speech of angels" through teaching, directing, and performing.

A Memorial Service will be held to honor Billie at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 28 at 11:00 am. Family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Brawley family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Memorial Park

273 Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 28. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
249 W. McLelland Ave.
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

Bill Wilhelm

“ I knew Billie Cress when I was living at our home in the Shepherds Community. She was a wonderful lady who came from a great family. Her mother, Mrs. Zoie, was my mother's best friend forever. They graduated from Troutman High in the same class and had gone to grammar school together at the Simpson School in the Ostwalt Community. In addition, Mrs. Zoie and Mr. Vance Sherrill sat in the rumble seat of my father's car as the foursome drove to SC to get married on July 8, 1929. Billie was a beautiful lady, both physically and socially. I went to our mutual Alma Mater, Catawba College, in 1964 and have unfortunately lost touch with so many great people since that was my last year of living full time in the Mooresville area.

Bill Wilhelm--youngest son of Guy and Grace Chandler Wilhelm

Bill Wilhelm - July 02, 2025 at 01:08 PM

KG

“ Kelly Greene purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Billie Brawley.



Kelly Greene - June 27, 2025 at 11:14 AM

KG

“ Kelly Greene planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Billie Brawley.

Kelly Greene - June 27, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Billie Brawley.



June 26, 2025 at 10:06 AM



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

June 26, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ On behalf of George and the Brawley family, we send our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of sweet Billie! We were so glad she and Marshal were both able to celebrate George's birthday! The three of them were precious! Billie was a special lady! I know you will her deeply.

George Brawley (Dale, Donna, Susan) - June 25, 2025 at 04:17 PM



“ Billie was a sweet friend of the Wright family at First Pres. for most of my lifetime. It was always a treat to catch up with her when I was in town. She stepped in at the last minute and played the piano beautifully at my wedding in 2004. Sending prayers to her family and friends during this time of loss.

Jamie Wright Price - June 25, 2025 at 06:57 AM

EA

“ *Billie was our neighbor when we first married. She kept me up to date on all the happenings in Mooresville. She also taught me piano when I was Jr. High age. I am afraid I was a big disappointment to her as a music student. I will remember her with fondness*
Thinking of your family,
Elizabeth Johnston Arthurs

Elizabeth Arthurs - June 25, 2025 at 12:49 AM

DC

“ *so very sorry to hear of billies passing. great lady.ive know her and her husband for many years. i know shes with ray now.rip. dave cook*

dave cook - June 24, 2025 at 11:48 PM

RP

“ *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

Rev. Mark Pitts - June 24, 2025 at 09:59 PM