



Lizzie Barger Wagner

August 21, 1925 - September 30, 2022

Lizzie Barger Wagner, age 97, of Mt. Ulla, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 30, 2022 at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center following a brief decline in health. Born on August 21, 1925 in Davidson County to the late James R. and Sarah Edwards Barger, Lizzie was one of 13 children and grew up on a farm in western Rowan County, where she and her brothers and sisters helped with cotton and tobacco.

Graduating from Mt. Ulla High School in 1945 at nearly 20 years old, Lizzie shared that she sometimes missed school to help on the farm. Her delayed graduation was well worth it, for it was at Mt. Ulla that Lizzie met her sweetheart, the late William "Harris" Wagner," on a blind date at a school dance. Married on April 20, 1946, the two of them shared 43 years together and raised five children-four boys and a girl. With a strong work ethic instilled during her years on the family farm, Lizzie worked at Burlington Industries for 27 years before retiring in 1995. Despite working long, night shifts at the mill, her children recollect her always making time for them and ensuring they never went without, encouraging them to participate in a variety of activities, including Boy Scouts and 4-H. Having all four of her boys earn their Eagle Award was always a source of pride for her.

A dedicated member of Salem Lutheran Church, Lizzie enjoyed being a part of her ladies circle and helping to roll dough for their chicken and dumplings

suppers. Her years selling Buddy Poppies and supporting the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in various leadership roles are other examples of her dedication and service. She was active with the Home Demonstration Club, and enjoyed cooking, sewing, and gardening. She especially loved working outside in her flowers and watching the birds. In her later years, she would bird-watch from her "thinking chair," the old rocking chair by the door in her living room, where her children would joke that she sat and thought up endless jobs to add to their honey-do lists when they visited.

Well-traveled and always up for an adventure, she and Harris would frequently load up the kids for an impromptu beach weekend or a trip to White Lake. When the mill was closed for the 4th of July holiday, she loved the big family camping trips to the Barger farm pond. As her boys joined the service, this would provide an opportunity for even more adventure as the family trekked to different parts of the country for visits. She also loved bus trips and getaways with her brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews, where shenanigans almost certainly always ensued. During her life, she was fortunate to be able to travel abroad many times, though she always loved the quiet comfort of watching the waves crash to the shore on family beach trips. Although she loved to be on-the-go, she was never more content than when she was surrounded by her family.

Having lived a long and full life, Lizzie was preceded in death by a number of beloved family members. In addition to her parents and her husband, Harris, those passing on before Lizzie include her oldest son Gary Wagner; a granddaughter, Dawn Keener; a grandson, Drew Thompson; and a great-granddaughter Haleigh Beaver. She was also preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters-Marvin Barger, Essie Barger Young, Callie Barger Kluttz, Geneva Barger Bell, Myrtle Barger Briggs, James "Buck" Barger, Gurla Barger Watson, Jacob "Jake" Barger, Thomas "Tom" Barger, and Thelma "Peggy" Barger Koontz.

Those left to cherish her memory include her sons, Wayne (Jackie) Wagner of Cottingham, England, Ronald (Carol) Wagner of Woodleaf, Karl (Patricia) Wagner of Great Mills, MD, and her daughter, Karen (Johnny) Karriker of Sherrills Ford. She also leaves behind a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Wagner.

Her nine grandchildren-Debbie King, Kristi (Scott) Brown, Bryan (Cristy) Wagner, Dale (Krissie) Wagner, Minde (Jody) Bare, Dawn (Jonathan) Creason, Justin Karriker, Logan (Avery) Thompson, Lindsey (Jared) Binder, and Sara Wagner, and her 15 great-grandchildren-Josh Keener, Patrick McMillan, Lauren Summersell, Dominic King, Sage and Mia Brown, Gus and Ethan Wagner, Tyler Bare, Zoe and Elijah Wagner, Morgan and Maddox Creason, Delaney Karriker, Kenneth and Isaac Thompson, and Emerson Binder-will miss warm bowls of her homemade chicken and dumplings and sitting around the fire at the weenie roasts she loved so much.

Lizzie also leaves behind three precious great-great granddaughters, Olivia Keener and twins Lydia and Lilah Bare. She is also survived by an older sister, Georgia Barger Harris, whom she spoke with each day on the telephone, often coaching the Atlanta Braves together from their easy chairs, as well as a younger brother, Joe Barger and wife Barbara, whom she enjoyed visiting in Ringgold, Georgia.

Though we will miss her terribly, her legacy lives on in each of us-in the memories we will cherish and the stories we will tell, and certainly in our shared love of a good meal and a good laugh. To celebrate her life, a funeral service will be conducted on Saturday, October 8 at 4:00pm at Salem Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC with Pastor Dawn Rister officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 3:00pm in the church parlor followed by service at 4:00pm. Burial will follow the service in the Salem Lutheran Church

cemetery.

To honor our mother and grandmother, please consider a memorial gift to FeedNC (formerly the Mooresville Soup Kitchen), 275 South Broad Street, Mooresville, NC 28115. Until recent years, she spent many days volunteering at the soup kitchen and making lifelong friends.

Like much of the Barger family, our mom and grandma was always at home in any kitchen, and was one of the best cooks we've ever known. It was difficult to narrow the list of our most favorite things, but these are a few of the recipes we love the most. We hope you'll enjoy these as much as we always have. www.LizzieWagnersRecipes.com

Cemetery Details

Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery

5080 Sherrills Ford Road
Salisbury, NC 28147

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

OCT 8. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church
5080 Sherrills Ford Road
Salisbury, NC 28147

Funeral Service

OCT 8. 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church
5080 Sherrills Ford Road
Salisbury, NC 28147

Graveside Service

OCT 8. 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery
5080 Sherrills Ford Road
Salisbury, NC 28147

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Karen and family, I was so saddened to learn of your mother’s passing. Praying for comfort and peace for you and your entire family. Jan Hunsucker.

jan Hunsucker - October 05, 2022 at 10:31 AM



“ Beverly Holt lit a candle in memory of Lizzie Barger Wagner



Beverly Holt - October 03, 2022 at 11:14 AM



Beautiful tribute to your Mother. I remember Harris bringing some of your Moms homemade baked goods in with him to share at work. Your Mom always had a sweet smile & kind word for everyone. A very hard worker and devoted wife & mother. Your publication of her Recipes is a legacy of her for all of us to enjoy. Thank you for sharing. When time is appropriate, would you please clarify the quantity of sugar to be used in her Pulled Mint recipe.

*Keeping all of the Lizzie & Harris Wagner Family in my heart & prayers.
Beverly Sproul Holt*

Beverly Holt - October 10, 2022 at 11:06 AM