

# Clay and Tracy shared big heart, a gift for dance

West Meck standout from '84 lauded as a female impersonator

You could say that when his heart stopped beating not one, but two people died. And you wouldn't be too far from wrong.

Clay Edwin Lambert of Charlotte died Oct. 14 of an apparent heart attack. Showgirl Tracy Morgan, Clay's entertainer alter-ego, also died. They were 41.

Tracy had just finished her second number and went backstage to change costumes. She felt faint, sat in a chair then fell to the floor.

Clay was West Mecklenburg High School's 1984 valedictorian. He entered an 11th-grade talent contest with his cousin, Fran Waldrop. "He was a wonderful dancer and we practiced for two weeks," she said. He finally told her they'd never win unless he changed partners. "He did and they won," she said.

He was the only male dancer in the Indianettes, who danced at the school's games. "Only the elite could be part of that group," Fran said. "You had to be really talented."

He was certainly that. Videos of Tracy's performances varied from a slow, model's stroll to a super-energetic song and dance. Tracy's costumes rivaled those seen on Broadway and television extravaganzas such as "Dancing With the Stars."

### Glamorous gowns, dresses

Mom Jewel Harris said, "His closet is packed with gowns and dresses. He had most of them made and one he wore in a pageant and won; another is a beautiful blue he danced in a lot. He wore them once, changed the beads or something on it, then wore it again. He never wore one twice that looked the same. He loaned one of them to a niece as a prom dress."

Jewel didn't really know her son as Tracy Morgan. "I knew him as Clay-boy," she said. "I've been to a couple of his shows and he was so proud that I came. When they had Gay Pride at Gateway Village, me, a niece and my sister went. He dedicated a song to me; Elvis's

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE...

Gerry Hostetler



Tracy Morgan



Clay Lambert

"Burning love."

Friend Jack Kirven said Tracy had been an entertainer for 20 years. "She performed regularly all over North Carolina and other states. She had a very, very wide fan base. She was one of the most celebrated female impersonators in the entire southeast. She won nearly 100 titles and her 12 crowns are on permanent display, along with her ashes, at Scorpius. We had a three-hour visitation when 1,000 people came."

Acquaintance Don King saw several of Tracy's performances and said, "Seeing him reinforced for me how a female impersonator can make people feel great. You were glad to be in the world, he made you feel so good."

### Both had big heart

Clay and Tracy, though they differed outwardly, shared a tender heart and a desire to help others. "He was the kindest person with the biggest heart," Jewel said. "He was the most loving, caring person I've ever known. If he saw people who needed it, he always tried to help. He felt sorry for people, he had such a big heart. I don't know anybody who didn't love him."

Brother Carl Lambert said, "His lifestyle was different from mine, but he was a wonderful person, a loving brother, good friend and honest person."

Cousin Fran told Clay, "It's so sad, you're the best looking woman in the family - and you're a man."

But no matter. As Don King said, "What a wonderful person, on stage and in real life."

Reach Gerry at 704-358-5075 or 800-283-6459, ext. 5075  
ghostetler@charlotteobserver.com

## ROBERT GOULET

# 'Camelot' role brought baritone stardom in U.S.

BY DAISY NGUYEN  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Robert Goulet, the handsome, big-voiced baritone whose Broadway debut in "Camelot" launched an award-winning stage and recording career, has died. He was 73.

The singer died Tuesday morning in a Los Angeles hospital while awaiting a lung transplant, said Goulet spokesman Norm Johnson.

He had been awaiting a lung transplant at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after being found last month to have a rare form of pulmonary fibrosis.

Goulet had remained in good spirits even as he waited for the transplant, said Vera Goulet, his wife of 25 years.

"Just watch my vocal cords," she said he told doctors before they inserted a breathing tube. The Massachusetts-born

Goulet, who spent much of his youth in Canada, gained stardom in 1960 with "Camelot," the

Lerner and Loewe musical that starred Richard Burton as King Arthur and Julie Andrews as his Queen Guenevere.

He became a hit with American TV viewers with appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and other programs. Sullivan labeled him the "American baritone from Canada," where he had already been a popular star in the 1950s, hosting his own show called "General Electric's Showtime."

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## Obituaries and In Memoriams

The Charlotte Observer extends sincere condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

### Mecklenburg

**Mr. Mario Jermain Bethea**, of Charlotte, died October 28, 2007. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Grier Funeral Service.



### Kristi Pressley Crates

Our precious angel went home peacefully October 29, 2007. She was a beloved wife, sister, daughter and friend. Kristi leaves a huge void in the lives of all she touched. She fought cancer courageously for 14 years and ran her race well to the finish.

Kristi was born in Charlotte, NC, November 23, 1971, daughter of Bob and Kay Pressley of Charlotte. She graduated from East Mecklenburg High School and attended East Carolina University where she received an associate degree in Physical Therapy and later went on to be a real estate broker and own her own business, Preferred Realty. She loved the Lord and had a passion for real estate. Kristi loved to travel domestically and internationally and was blessed to visit twenty-one countries with her family. Her remarkable smile will be missed daily and her positive attitude will be cherished by all who knew her and will remain with us each day of our lives.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husband of over nine years, Mike Crates; sisters, Katrina Kalligaris and husband, Milton and Karma Crisco and husband, Jeff; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jim and Wilma Crates; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Cindy and Joey Hargett; nieces, Kalista Kalligaris and Pierson Hargett and nephew Jacob Hargett all of Charlotte.

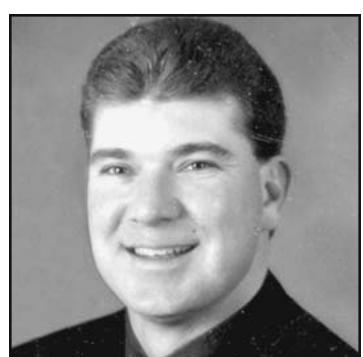
Funeral service for Kristi will be held at Central Church of God, 5301 Sardis Rd. on Thursday, November 1 at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow in Sharon Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service Wednesday evening, October 31, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that memorials be made to Divas In The Kitchen, 18524 Peninsula Club Dr., Cornelius, NC 28031 an organization that Kristi co-founded that assists various local charities, especially Make-A-Wish. The web site is www.cookies4acause.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service 1111 East Blvd. online www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

**Terrie J. Dewberry-Bertha**, 26, of Charlotte, daughter of Terry Dewberry and the late Gloria Smith, died October 28, 2007. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Rosedale-W.L. Truesdale Memorial Funeral Parlor.

**Charles L. "Chuck" Grace**, 72, of Charlotte, died October 29, 2007 at CMC-Main. Arrangements are incomplete. Complete biography in Thursday's Observer. Harry & Bryant Company is serving the family.



### Blair Matthew Holsonback

Mr. Holsonback, 38, of Matthews, NC, died Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at Presbyterian Hospital - Harris Hospice Unit, Charlotte, NC.

A service to celebrate Blair's life will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 2, 2007 from the Worship Center of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, with The Reverend John Harrill officiating. The family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service at the church. A graveside service will be held 3:00 p.m. Friday at Greenwood Memorial Park, Greenwood, SC.

Blair, the son of Harold Gambrell Holsonback and Teresa Quattlebaum Holsonback of Matthews, NC, was born at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, CA on July 3, 1969. He was a 1987 graduate of Independence High School in Charlotte, NC.

In addition to his parents, Blair is survived by his wife, Lea Wilson Holsonback; their son, Brett Holsonback; and his step-daughter, Amanda Thomas, all of Matthews, NC; and by his grandmothers, Daisy Holsonback of Greenwood, SC and Mildred Quattlebaum of Matthews, NC.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Presbyterian Hospice and Palliative Care, P.O. Box 33549, Charlotte, NC 28233-3549.

Arrangements by McEwen - Mint Hill Chapel (704) 545-4864.



### Glenda Joyce Herndon Eanes

Mrs. Eanes, 63, passed away peacefully at her home on October 30, 2007, surrounded by her family.

She was born April 6, 1944, in Danville, Virginia. She is the daughter of James and Bernice Herndon. She grew up in Danville and graduated from Whitnell High School. She married the love of her life, Preston DeHart Eanes and moved with her new husband to Charlotte in 1964. Mrs. Eanes spent her initial years in Charlotte raising her two daughters and making beautiful memories with her best friends, Vic and Sylvia Brawley. After her daughters were grown, she was employed by Bill Freeman Sports Officials where she truly loved working with Bill and Caroline Freeman and all of her officials with whom she considered her extended family.

Mrs. Eanes was preceded in death by her sister, Darnell Herndon Walton. She is survived by her parents, James and Bernice Herndon, her husband of 43 years, Preston DeHart Eanes; daughters, Pamela Starnes, and husband Tommy; Wendy Stedham, and husband Chris; grandchildren, Jackie Collins, Trey Starnes, Meghan Starnes, Edward Elinan, Aspen Payne, Kaylee Stedham and Logan Collins. She leaves behind many cherished friends.

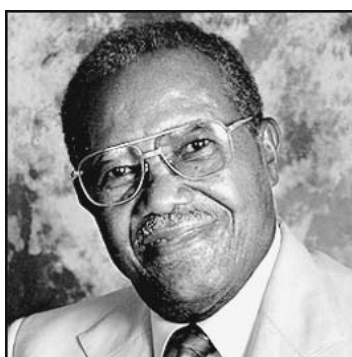
In celebration of her life, a memorial service will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the J.B. Tallent Funeral Service Chapel, 1937 Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte, NC. Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to Hospice & Palliative Care, Charlotte Region, 1420 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.

J.B. Tallent Funeral Service is serving the family of Mrs. Eanes. Online condolences may be shared through www.tallentfuneralservice.com.

**Mrs. Katherine Evans**, of Charlotte, died October 30, 2007. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and entrusted to Grier Funeral Service.

**Mr. Charlie Johnson**, 56, died October 26, 2007. Funeral 12noon, visitation 11am, Thursday, A.L. Jirwright Funeral Service; burial, Gethsemane Memorial Gardens.



### Douglas Martin

Mr. Martin, 91, departed this life Friday, October 26, 2007 at Presbyterian Hospital Hospice. Viewing at Grier Funeral Home, 115 John McCarroll Ave., Charlotte, NC on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 from 1 to 6 PM. A memorial service to celebrate Mr. Martin's life will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at Miami Gospel Chapel, 10900 NW 17th Ave., Miami, FL 33167. Interment will be at Dade Memorial Park, 1309 NW 136th St., Miami, FL 33167.

Grier Funeral Service is in charge of the arrangements.



### Glenda Brown McNeal

Mrs. McNeal, 58, of Charlotte, died October 24, 2007 at CMC-University. The funeral will be held 12:00 noon Thursday at Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. David L. Roberts officiating. Burial will be in Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens. Visitation one hour prior to the service. The family will receive friends after the service at the home of Brenda Brown, 4408 Butler Road.

She is survived by her husband, John McNeal; daughters, Brenda Brown (Melvin) and Leslie Brown, both of Charlotte; son, LeMonte Brown of Greensboro, NC; sisters, Evelyn Brown and Mary Jean Brown and brothers, Wade Brown (Carol), Charles Brown (Mozell), Kenny Brown (Lou Ellen), and Larry Brown, all of Charlotte.

Richmond Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

**Infant Jamir J. Robinson**, died Saturday, October 27, 2007. Graveside service is Thursday, 12PM at Beatties Ford Mem. Gardens. Grier Funeral Service entrusted.

**Mrs. Loretta Costner Scott**, of Concord, formerly of Charlotte, died October 28, 2007. Funeral 1pm, visitation 12noon, Thursday, New Life Fellowship; burial, York Memorial Park. Alexander Funeral home in charge.



### Jane McCord Rike

Mrs. Rike, 81, of Charlotte, NC passed away October 30, 2007 at Presbyterian Hospital. She was born May 25, 1926 in Lumberton, NC, the daughter of the late Arthur Stevenson and Eva Agnew McCord. She grew up in Charlotte and graduated from Central High School. She married her husband James Franklin (Bud) Rike in June of 1944. She and her husband raised their two children in Charlotte where she was actively involved at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed many years as a Cub Scout, Brownie and Girl Scout leader.

She was a member of Carmel Country Club where she spent many years playing golf. She was also an avid bridge player actively involved with 2 Round Robin bridge clubs as well as several other bridge groups up until her death.

Mrs. Rike was preceded in death by her loving husband of 42 years, James Franklin Rike, Sr. and her son, James Franklin Rike, Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Carol Anne Leonard and husband Frank of Charlotte; granddaughter, Janie Bland and husband Mark of Charlotte; grandson, Frank Leonard and wife Laura of Knoxville, TN; great grandchildren, Carter Bland, Kalen Bland and Sam Leonard. Besides her immediate family, she leaves behind many cherished friends.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church with Pastor Phil Divine and Pastor Rush Oley officiating. The family will receive friends at the church immediately following the service.

The family request that memorial contributions be made to the MetroLina Association of the Blind, 704 Louise Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204.

Harry & Bryant Company and Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church are serving the Rike Family.



### Grace Keller Steinhauser

Mrs. Steinhauser, 92, of Charlotte, died October 24, 2007 in Presbyterian Hospital in Matthews.

She was born Grace Helen Grimes on March 7, 1915, as the eldest child of John and Edith Grimes, in Tottenville, Staaten Island, NY, with siblings Mildred, Vincent, Richard and Ronald. She graduated from Staaten Island High School.

Her career was spent in corporate administration and she retired as Administrative Assistant to the President of the Yale Security Group in 1981. After retirement she served as President of the Charlotte Secretaries Club.

Mrs. Steinhauser was a student of the famous painter, Zoltan Szabo, under whose guidance she did beautiful oil paintings, water colors and pencil sketches and nurtured her passion for all things beautiful; and the creation thereof in a variety of media. In addition to her paintings, she left many beautiful arts and craft items.

Grace joined Sharon United Methodist Church and the McWhorter Sunday School Class in 1979 and actively served her church in many ways. During her long membership she lost her husband, Walter Keller, in 1983. In 1989, she married Anton Steinhauser.

Survivors include her husband, Anton Steinhauser; a brother, Ronnie; a sister-in-law; six nieces and a nephew; as well as many friends, whose friendship she nurtured during a long lifetime devoted to caring for and loving others.

Mrs. Steinhauser was entombed at Sharon Memorial Park. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at 11:30 AM, Friday, November 2, 2007 at Sharon United Methodist Church, 4411 Sharon Rd. with the Reverend Ken Roth, Senior Pastor, officiating.

The Steinhauser family is in the care of Gaskin Services, Matthews, www.gaskinservices.com.

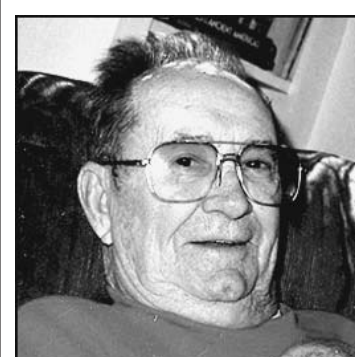
**Mrs. Suzanne Agnes Vaughn**, 43, died October 28, 2007. Arrangements are incomplete and entrusted to Heritage Funeral Service, Weddington Chapel.

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**The Charlotte Observer**



### James Baxter McElroy

Mr. McElroy, age 86, of Charlotte, died Sunday, October 28, 2007 at Avante of Charlotte. Born January, 1921 in Harriman, TN, he was a son of the late Ira and Bertha Hendricks McElroy. Mr. McElroy served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He retired as a mechanic of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Schools bus garage after fifteen years of service.

The family will receive friends 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at McEwen Funeral Service - Sharon Memorial Park. The service to celebrate his life will immediately follow from the graveside at Sharon Memorial Park.

Survivors include a daughter, Lynn McElroy Colwell and her husband, Jim, of Asheville; a sister, Wanda Wampler of Atlanta, GA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Mr. McElroy was preceded in death by his wife, Addie Jordan McElroy; and five siblings.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Charlotte, 2700 Toomey Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Arrangements for the McElroy Family have been entrusted to McEwen Funeral Service at Sharon Memorial Park, 5716 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28212. (704-334-6421).



### Eleanor Smith

Mrs. Smith of Charlotte, died of a broken heart on October 28, 2007, following a sudden bout of cancer.

Eleanor Grace was born on May 25, 1931 in Buchanan, Michigan to Joseph W. and Luella Hyink. She began a partnership with Joseph M. Smith, Jr. on May 1, 1966. He preceded her in death on November 10, 2006. She retired from a career as a social worker after a lifetime endeavor in social services in Illinois, California, and Japan. She was preceded in death by her father, one brother, John, and one son, Eric Paul Smith.

Memorial service for Eleanor will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte at 234 North Sharon Amity Road, on October 31, at 2 p.m. led by Rev. J. Leach.

Survivors are her mother of Holland, MI; one brother, Dr. Wendell Hyink, his wife Linda and children; her children, Martha (Richard) Vana, Dena Smith, Kurt (Mary) Smith, Sara (Marc) Primer, and John (Dab) Smith; 15 of the greatest grandchildren; 8 1/2 great grandchildren; and many extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, in the spirit of the life they led, donations can be made in Eleanor and Joe's name to a charity of your choice. They made a difference in many lives and will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved them.

Arrangements by Greene Funeral Service, South Chapel, Gastonia, NC.

**Sarah Stroud**, 92, died Monday, October 29, 2007. Arrangements are incomplete with A.L. Jirwright Funeral Service entrusted.

**Forrest Prosser Weeks**, 81, of Stanley, formerly of Charlotte, died October 29, 2007. Graveside service 2pm Wednesday, Forrest Lawn West Cemetery, Cavin-Cook Funeral Home of Mooresville is assisting the family.

**Mr. Bobby J. Yeargin**, 59, died Friday, October 26, 2007. Funeral is Wednesday, 1:30PM at Richmond Funeral Home. Visitation is Wednesday, 1PM at the funeral home. Richmond Funeral Home entrusted.

## North Carolina

**ASHEBORO** — Clarence R. Ennis, 83, died Monday, October 29, 2007. Funeral is Thursday, 2PM, West Chapel UMC. Visitation is Thursday, 1-2PM at Ridge Funeral Service. Ridge Funeral Service entrusted.

**ASHEBORO** — Mrs. Mary Pierce Strickland, 93, died October 30, 2007. Funeral 1pm, visitation 12noon, Thursday, Ridge Funeral Home.

**CONNELLY SPRINGS** — Mary Evangeline Wycoff, 87, died Thursday 26, 2007. Funeral 2pm Thursday, Hickory Funeral Home; burial, Catawba Memorial Park. Visitation Wednesday, 6:30-8pm, at the funeral home.

**EAST SPENCER** — Minister Naomi Seigle Cowan died October 29, 2007. Funeral 1pm Fri., New Testament, Hickory Funeral Home; visitation Thur., 7-8pm, at church; Burial, Oakwood Cemetery. Hairston Funeral Home in charge.

**GRANITE FALLS** — Rev. Fred F. Hicks, Sr., 81, died October 29, 2007. Memorial service 7pm, visitation 6pm, Thursday, Mackie-High Funeral Home with military honors.

## FRIEDMAN PAUL ERHARDT

# Chef helped get TV cooking

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Friedman Paul Erhardt, a German-born cook known as "Chef Tell" who was one of America's pioneering TV chefs, has died. He was 63.

Erhardt died Friday of heart failure at his home in Upper Black Eddy, about 25 miles east of Allentown, his family said.

Erhardt's jolly personality, thick German accent and wit made him a fixture on TV shows such as "Regis and Kathie Lee" and comedy skits on "Saturday Night Live."

He was also said to be the inspiration for the Swedish chef on

"The Muppet Show."

He made his first appearance on a local Philadelphia TV show, "Dialing for Dollars," in 1974. That was followed by a 90-second cooking spot on a nationally syndicated show, which blossomed into appearances on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," specials for QVC and a PBS program, "In the Kitchen With Chef Tell."

Born in Stuttgart, the son of a newspaper owner, Erhardt earned the nickname "Tell" after playing William Tell in a school play. He trained in restaurants and hotels throughout Europe.