



Joyce Whitley Steele

August 13, 1939 - July 25, 2024

Mrs. Joyce Whitley Steele, 84, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina, surrounded by her loving children.

Born on August 13, 1939, Joyce lived most of her life in Stanly County, North Carolina. She is survived by her three children: son Joe B. Huneycutt (wife, Sherri Huneycutt) of Charlotte, NC; daughter Amy Steele Sherrell (husband, Rob Sherrell) of Atlanta, GA; and daughter Lisa Ann Steele of Atlanta, GA.

She is also survived by three sisters, Ellene Smith, Lynette Goodman, and Jean Lyon; and two brothers, Terrell and Danny Whitley. Joyce will be greatly missed by her family, including her three grandchildren: Dr. Savannah Huneycutt (husband, Daniel Veizaga) of Charlotte, NC; Addison Leigh Huneycutt of New York City, NY; and Robert Steele Sherrell of Atlanta, GA. Her children and grandchildren were the light of her life, and she was immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. She cherished every moment spent with all of them.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Pauline Perry Whitely and Elton D. Whitley; her first husband, Josephus Bryant Huneycutt; her second husband, Thomas Franklin Steele; and her brothers, Reggie, Ralph, and Durant Whitley.

Joyce was a dedicated lifelong learner who pursued an extensive educational journey. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Pfeiffer University and furthered her expertise by earning both a master's degree in Reading Education and an Advanced Specialist Degree in Educational Administration

and Supervision from Appalachian State University. Committed to education, she continued her academic pursuits towards a Doctoral degree from both the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Nova Southeastern University until health-related issues prevented her from completing her doctoral studies. Joyce's educational accomplishments reflect her dedication to her profession and her commitment to improving the field of education.

Joyce was a beloved wife, mother, educator, and community leader. She dedicated her life to her family and to shaping the lives of countless students as an esteemed teacher and principal. With a passion for education, she was a forward-thinking leader, pioneering innovative educational and athletic programs that left a lasting impact. Joyce's legacy will continue to live on through the countless lives she touched and the programs she established, fostering a spirit of learning, growth, and community.

A devoted member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church community, Joyce's faith was a cornerstone of her life. She was an active participant in church activities from childhood and throughout her adult life. She will be remembered for her compassionate heart, visionary leadership, and profound impact on both her family and her community.

The family expresses their sincerest gratitude to the staff and team at The Sanctuary – Glenridge Senior Healthcare. The unparalleled care and love provided by the dedicated professionals there brought comfort and peace to Joyce in her final days, for which her family will be forever thankful.

Her funeral service will be held graveside at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made in the form of a donation to VIA Health Partners, PO Box 470408, Charlotte NC 28247 | 704.335.3557 | giving@viahp.org.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery

17236 Frog Pond Road
Oakboro, NC 28129

Previous Events

Graveside Funeral Service

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery
17236 Frog Pond Road
Oakboro, NC 28129

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Mrs. Steele was my principal at North Stanly High School. She helped me through a difficult period in life that had affected my schooling. I never will forget her help.

Mary Owens Rominger - August 25, 2024 at 11:51 PM

BR

“ My sincere condolences to you Lisa, Amy and family! Your mom was an amazing lady! I remember so much about her and especially her taking good care of us on our sleepovers and putting up with us girls so well! Sending hugs and prayers of comfort. ❤️

Brenn - August 09, 2024 at 04:30 PM

LG

“ Love, The Abernethys and Griers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Whitley Steele.

Love, The Abernethys and Griers - August 02, 2024 at 10:48 AM

LG

“ Love, The Abernethys and Griers purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joyce Whitley Steele.



Love, The Abernethys and Griers - August 02, 2024 at 10:48 AM

PM

“Joyce was my cousin and a woman I very much admired. She did not let tragedies overcome her and achieved her goals. She raised 3 wonderful children. I personally have not seen Joyce in a while however I kept up with her through her sisters, Ellene and Lynette. Rest now my dear friend. Enjoy glory and being reunited with your family. I shall miss you. ❤️🙏



patricia Mabry - July 31, 2024 at 10:59 AM

BM

Ms. Steele was my principal for 10 years and hired me for my first teaching position. I am grateful for the experience that she allowed me to gain. I haven't found another person with her integrity and fortitude. I miss her.

Beth Whitlow Marin - August 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM

DJ

“If you had any educational contact with her, you learned from the best. She helped me out soooo much, she hired me and she believe in me so much that she talk me into going back to college 😭.



Dorothy Jackson - July 29, 2024 at 10:23 PM

AG

“Anita Gibson lit a candle in memory of Joyce Whitley Steele



Anita Gibson - July 29, 2024 at 08:11 PM

BH

“ Such good memories with Joyce Steele over the years. She leaves quite a legacy for her family. Her inspiration for learning will stay with us always. May her strength and the strength of the Lord be with her family during this time. Rest in peace Ms. Steele....

Betsy & David Heath - July 29, 2024 at 07:50 PM

PP

“ Joyce taught my daughter at Endy, and later became my Principal at West Stanly. She made sure I had the materials that I needed to complete my journey in the classroom unlike others who said we had no funds.

Love and blessings to the family.

Priscilla Perry

Priscilla Perry - July 29, 2024 at 07:12 PM

SR

“ Lifting up all the family in this time.

Stan Rogers - July 29, 2024 at 03:29 PM

DF

“ Our deepest condolences and prayers for the family



David and Sarah Fisher - July 29, 2024 at 03:05 PM

AB

“ Mrs. Steele was my principal for 13 years and when I graduated from college, she hired me for my first teaching position. She taught me so much! I’m so thankful for the impact she made on my life!

Allison Love Bowers - July 29, 2024 at 02:27 PM

KS

“ Mrs. Steele was my 5th and 6th grade teacher at Endy Elementary. She left during my 6th grade year to transition into administration. I remember her fondly as one of my favorite elementary teachers. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Kelly Efird Simmons - July 29, 2024 at 02:22 PM

NM

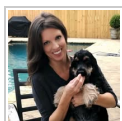
“ Mrs. Steele was my 4th grade teacher at Endy. She was an excellent academic teacher, but the most valuable lessons I learned from her were how to be a better person. She taught me about kindness and honesty and compassion. I loved her so much. She has been a lifelong inspiration to me, and she will be missed.

Nancy Medlin - July 29, 2024 at 01:32 PM

DE

“ I've always told everyone that Mrs. Steele was my all time favorite teacher. Old Endy school 3rd. grade.

Derrick Efird - July 29, 2024 at 12:26 PM



“ Mom loved being a teacher at Endy. Thank you so much for posting about the impact she made. Lisa

Lisa Steele - July 31, 2024 at 10:55 PM

LE

“ Mrs Steele gave me the opportunity to come back to West Stanly to teach. I will always be grateful for her faith in me. I am sending prayers and love for her family during this difficult time.

Lori Russell Evans - July 29, 2024 at 11:57 AM

AD

Amy and Lisa,
I will always cherish the memories made at your house with your Mom and her girls. I just found out about Joyce and wish I could be with you all on tomorrow. Continue to love and take care of each other.
Alice Davis

Alice Davis - July 29, 2024 at 11:59 PM

ZB

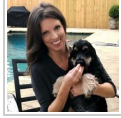
Joyce was a great friend, teacher and principal. She was one of the best.
zoe burleson

zoe H burleson - July 30, 2024 at 09:23 PM

LR

Joyce was a beautiful lady. Condolences to her children and family.

Linda Russell - July 31, 2024 at 06:57 AM



Oh Alice, I have meant to call you and tell you about mom. The times you were around and making jokes at and with dad always made mom laugh so much. You held a special place in her heart and our family, and still do with us. Thank you for the kind words. I will call you this weekend.

Zoe, thank you for this. mom loved working with you and being friends in the community and at Pleasant Grove together. Our families go way back in the community and she always loved you and yours.

Thank you Linda for your thoughts. We appreciate everyone's memories of mom and your support.

Lori thank you for posting. Mom loved hiring great teachers, especially those who were dedicated to and grew up in the community. We appreciate your post. Lisa

Lisa Steele - July 31, 2024 at 11:08 PM