



## Laura Evelyn Johnson Rice

April 24, 1929 - December 25, 2022

Laura Evelyn Johnson Rice, a resident of Cary, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2022. Laura was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and greatgrandmother.

She was a devout Catholic and a member of Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Apex, North Carolina. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Laura was born on April 24, 1929, in Saltville, Virginia, to the late Charlie W. Johnson, Sr.,

and Mary Dixie Johnson. She graduated from Meadowview High School in Meadowview,

Virginia. Laura then attended Radford University, in Radford, Virginia, earning a Bachelor of

Science in Education in 1953. She was a member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. After

graduating, Laura met and married her husband of 65 years, Donis E. Rice, a U.S. Army

officer. She raised four children while moving throughout the South and to West Germany.

She taught elementary school math and physical education at the elementary, middle, and

high school levels, and she coached high school basketball. In 1975, she

graduated from the University of Virginia with a Master of Education degree. Laura was a kind, compassionate friend to all. She was an exceptional gardener, amazing cook, and avid sports lover. During college she drew a sketch titled, "I Went to a Bowl Game," which was featured in the Radford Review. She was especially devoted to the Virginia Cavaliers basketball and football teams, rarely missing a game on TV. Laura enjoyed doing many different crafts and traveling. In addition to her parents, Laura is preceded in death by her husband, Donis E. Rice, and brothers, Donald B. Johnson and Charlie W. Johnson, Jr. She is survived by her children, Cynthia Laughlin (Len Laughlin), Mark Rice, Gwen Wolf (Joe Wolf), and Belinda Brockington (Gary Brockington), ten grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be held at Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Road, Apex, North Carolina, on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation be made in memory of Laura Rice to ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or [stjude.org/donate](http://stjude.org/donate).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church  
3008 Old Raleigh Rd  
Apex, NC 27502

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ We are sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs Rice. Her family is in our thoughts and prayers. Pat and Joey Martin

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**Pat and Joey Martin** - January 23, 2023 at 08:51 AM

BB

“ My mother was the absolute best mom! She was vibrant, giving and rock solid in her values and faith. I know she is up in heaven with my dad, and they are watching and feeling proud of the family they created.

*I will miss my mom everyday but will continue to talk things out with her. My family (husband and 4 children) were truly blessed by her presence in our lives. My mom was so special to my children, and I know she will be greatly missed by them.*

*Love you Mom!*

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**Belinda Brockington** - January 06, 2023 at 11:07 AM

SO

“ We have such great memories of Mr and Mrs Rice. Ray and I were so blessed to have such wonderful neighbors and "adopted" by them. I have so many wonderful memories of dinners together and spending time together. Mrs Rice was an awesome cook. She and Mr Rice were role models for us and we cherish every moment that we got to spend with them. I especially appreciate their support and love in being there for Ray while I was deployed. I still have the book series that she faithfully mailed to me while I was deployed. (Mitford series). She seemed to know just what to say and what was needed.

*Dear sweet lady - you will be missed. Yet we know you are home with Jesus and now back with your great love, Mr Rice.*

*May God keep you and your family and I am praying that all will be comforted. Love to all*

*Sondra and Ray Thompson*

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**Sondra** - January 06, 2023 at 09:18 AM

BT

“ Work and scattered locations often keep families (Don was my first cousin) apart but we enjoyed a few family reunions over the years. How wonderful to get to spend some time with Laura, Don and family. It is so difficult to give up our loved ones but I pray you take comfort in knowing she's in God's presence.

*Betty Jo Tuell*

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**Betty Jo Tuell** - January 05, 2023 at 01:22 PM

BT

“ Betty Jo Tuell lit a candle in memory of Laura Evelyn Johnson Rice



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**Betty Jo Tuell** - January 04, 2023 at 09:56 AM

BR

“ *Barry Rice lit a candle in memory of Laura Evelyn Johnson Rice*



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**Barry Rice** - January 03, 2023 at 04:33 PM

BR

“ *Laura, since you have joined your late husband, my first cousin Don, in Heaven, your remaining earth family that grieves your loss. May your children and other family members remember what a good mother, grandmother, etc. you were. My condolences to all. Love, Barry Rice*

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**Barry Rice** - January 03, 2023 at 04:32 PM

GB

“ *Laura, you were an awesome mother-in-law (the best ever). I'll miss you. Go Hoos!! Love, Gary*

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**Gary Brockington** - January 03, 2023 at 01:37 PM