



Melonie Gaye Wigley

November 20, 1950 - August 10, 2025

Melonie Gaye Wigley, age 74 of Raleigh, passed away at home on the morning of August 10th, 2025. She was born in Kingston upon Thames, just outside of London, on November 20th, 1950 and grew up in the military family of Leon and Irene Cross.

Her first visit to America was the family's posting to Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, South Carolina. There, she faced the many challenges of an intelligent young girl with a cockney accent running headlong into the rural south of the mid '50s.

The family's second posting was more harmonious and took Melonie to the Tokyo area, living on and off-base while her father served in the Air Force. She was there during the 1964 Olympics. The post-war Japanese culture made a distinct impact on her and began a life-long love of Japan.

After Japan, Melonie lived with her parents in Havre, Montana, a small town approximately 40 miles from the Canadian border. The family then returned to England for her dad's final posting, where Melonie graduated from a US military school named Bushey Hall in 1968. She often shared fond memories of this time, including a trip with her tennis team to Garmisch in Germany.

After her father's retirement, the family moved to Great Falls, Montana. She began training for a career in nursing and worked part time at the auto shop on base. It was there in September 1970 that she first met Bryan, who was serving as a Minuteman launch officer. That was the beginning of 55 years together.

Melonie and Bryan married in 1972 in a small Episcopal church in Great Falls. Shortly afterward, they moved to Raleigh where Bryan rejoined IBM and Melonie began her career as a surgical nurse at Rex Hospital. Together, they started a family with Ryan born in 1974 and Lane in 1975.

During this period, Melonie met several of her closest life-long friends. Shortly after joining a British wives' club, she was at Pullen Park when Ryan became fascinated by the blue

English shoes worn by a young girl with a strange (New Zealand) accent. That girl's mother and an English woman from the club quickly formed a close trio whose bond continued through years of afternoon meetups as their six children grew. Later this turned into dinners, trips, reunions, and many cherished memories. Her friendship with these amazing women lasted over 45 years.

Following a few years of dedicated motherhood, Melonie completed her studies at Wake Tech, earned her RN certification, and joined the Rex OB/GYN team. She worked part time leading the development of a course for first time parents and became a certified childbirth educator. A flexible schedule at Rex allowed her to continue her career on nights and weekends while being fully engaged with her sons' early years.

In 1987 the opportunity to return to Japan became a reality as Bryan's work led them to Yokohama. Melonie eagerly studied Japanese language and culture while seeing her sons thrive in the multi-national environment of Yokohama.

After returning from Japan in 1989, Melonie joined the NC State Student Health Services where she served as a staff nurse for 23 years. She built and maintained close relationships with many of her colleagues from this time. Some of her fondest memories were from meeting the children whose parents attended her childbirth education courses.

As a parishioner at St. Paul's Cary, Melonie served on the advisory board for the NC State Episcopal Campus Ministry. Later she chaired the St. Paul's Care & Share ministry, whose mission is to serve the immediate short-term needs of St. Paul's members. The flower ministry, started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, was a special connection to the members of St. Paul's.

Melonie is survived by her mother, Irene Cross, her husband Bryan, sons, Ryan and Lane, brothers, Craig Cross (Jane) and Lance Cross (Laurie), and her dearest cat Rosie.

A Celebration of Melonie's life will be held on August 27th, 2025, at 1 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 221 Union St., Cary, NC 27511. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Donations may be made in Melonie's memory to St. Paul's Cary or Dorcas Ministries of Cary.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
221 Union St
Cary, NC 27511

Tribute Wall

EC

“ To all who knew and loved Melonie, my sincerest condolences. I met Melonie through my Mother, Judy Easterly, who worked with her at NC State Student Health. When I was receiving treatment for cancer, she invited me along with my mother and many friends (Sue Kenney) to brunch at your house. It was a memorable fancy brunch where I was made to forget my woes and feel welcomed amongst friends. She will be remembered as a very bright light and I will miss her. Sending prayers for peace and patience, Ellen (Easterly) Cappello

Ellen Cappello - August 27, 2025 at 10:42 AM

AH

“ Alyson H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melonie Gaye Wigley.

Alyson H. - August 27, 2025 at 08:07 AM

TM

“ Melonie was a beloved client of mine for more than 30 years. Always cheerful and always kind. Looked forward to seeing her everytime because she could always put me in a better mood❤️

Thomas Moore - August 26, 2025 at 08:24 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Melonie Gaye Wigley.



August 24, 2025 at 01:44 PM



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

August 24, 2025 at 01:44 PM

FS

“ Dear Bryan,
Javad and I would like to offer our deepest condolences to you and your family. you and Melonie have been assets of wisdom and love in our friendship circle. We are honored and grateful to have you and Melonie as a friend, we are saddened and miss her dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless her soul.

Freshteh Seyed - August 21, 2025 at 09:43 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melonie Gaye Wigley.

August 21, 2025 at 08:46 PM

RS

“ I grew up in Cary and my mom loved to hang out w/ Melanie & Bryan & the boys. My mom Nancy just got reunited w/ Melanie in Heaven. My condolences to all of you.

Sincerely,
Rob Stryker

Rob Stryker - August 21, 2025 at 01:02 PM

JL

“ Years ago (maybe 10 or 15) she prepared breakfast for a gathering of NCS BSU alumnae and a few Meredith alumnae at her home and then left for work while we ate breakfast. When I found out that she was a nurse at the NCS infirmary we wanted our son to meet her because he had just had three accidents (tooth knocked out, crack in one of his hands and a racket ball in his eye) and he was living in the dorm across the street from the infirmary. I thought maybe he should meet her just in case.... She came out, sat down and we had a nice visit. Our son didn't need her later after all. Accidents were finished. We enjoyed that chat and appreciated the time she spent with us. She was a special lady.
Jane and Warren Lineberger

Jane W Lineberger - August 19, 2025 at 11:18 AM

VB

“ I met and worked with Melonie at NC State Student health services. She was a compassionate and passionate RN . Always generous with staff, bringing gifts back from her travels to the UK. This news saddens me deeply. My deepest condolences to her Mom, husband and sons. Many blessings, Ginny Brown

Virginia Brown - August 16, 2025 at 10:32 PM

AJ

“ I worked with Melonie at NCSU Student Health now called Campus Health. She was always professional, kind and caring to the students and coworkers. Family was very important to Melonie. Her love for Bryan, Ryan and Lane was apparent when she talked about her family. I was grateful to know Melonie as a friend and coworker. My thoughts are with her family and loved ones during this difficult time. Melonie will be truly missed.



Arleen Justick - August 16, 2025 at 06:15 PM

PL

“ Saddened by the news of Melanie passing. Fond memories of her Care and Share ministry outreach; she played a healing role by her cards and flowers during the passing of my parents.

Bryan, Ryan, and Lane... My sincere condolences to you and your family. 🙏🙌

Patrick Lyerly - August 16, 2025 at 04:15 PM

BB

“ Sending sincere sympathy and prayers to Bryan and the family. Thanks for sharing Melonie with us at NC State University Student Health Services where she demonstrated professionalism and provided excellent care to the NC State students. B. Bessard



Brenda Bessard - August 16, 2025 at 01:23 PM

RO

“ Dear Melonie, how kind and hospitable you and Bryan were to us when we first arrived in Raleigh in 1977. You opened up a whole new social network for us newcomers. You have always been so generous and we're so glad that we remained firm friends ever since, even after our return to the UK. It was so lovely to see you here on your visits to the UK, a place where you had such deep roots. Our deepest condolences to Bryan, Ryan and Lane
Rory and Emilia

Rory O'Connor - August 16, 2025 at 09:56 AM

VS

“ Bryan so sorry your loss! Will keep you and your family in our prayers



Virgil and Ruth Steele - August 15, 2025 at 06:32 PM

GD

“ Melonie was one of the first people that I met when I first came to St. Paul's and we collaborated on the Fall Festival committee. She and I often talked about our British backgrounds. I will miss her smiles and my conversations with her. Keeping Bryan and your family in my prayers. Gail Duncan

Gail Duncan - August 15, 2025 at 01:20 PM

AH

“ Bryan and sons, your wife and Mother was an extraordinary woman. It appears she had an amazing life growing up and amazing married life and Motherhood. Cherish the memories. My sincere condolences to you and her many friends. Sincerely Ann Canipe Hooker

Ann Canipe Hooker - August 15, 2025 at 11:57 AM

DH

“ Joan and I offer our deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of Melonie. Thank you for keeping members of our IBM family informed of losses of others over many years and now the loss of your wife must be quite difficult as you transition from this great personal loss. Our thoughts are with you during this very difficult time.

Joan and Dan Hess

Dan Hess - August 15, 2025 at 11:07 AM

VA

“ A wonderful obituary for a fantastic woman. While we only knew Melonie for four years, we so appreciated her intelligence, sense of humor, and compassion for others. The world has lost a wonderful soul but her impact remains. Bryan, Lane and Ryan, we are so sorry for your loss. With love, Val and John Armstrong

Val and John Armstrong - August 15, 2025 at 09:46 AM

LH

“ So sorry for your loss.



Lawson & Joy Hardison - August 15, 2025 at 09:15 AM

HB

“ Am so very sorry to hear of your passing Melonie , I have lovely memories of your visits to the UK visiting Nan and grandad , I enjoyed listening to you talking about your travels around the world , my thoughts with Bryan , Ryan, lane at this sad time

Love Heather and family xxx

hether brock - August 15, 2025 at 08:04 AM

PC

“ Dear Bryan, Ryan and Lane
We were so sad to hear of Melonie's passing. Although its been a while since we last saw each other, we remember her with great fondness especially the times we visited you and your family in the US, your visits to our mum in the UK, and most recently your stay with us.
You were both such great company during that visit and we have some nice memories of the time we spent together. Loraine especially with conversations she had with Mel - sharing stories about their mums and all the funny moments that came with them.
Please accept our heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you, Ryan and Lane.

With love from the UK.

Paul, Loraine

Jen and Mike

James and Laura

Joe and Sam xx

Paul Clack - August 15, 2025 at 07:26 AM

JU

“ Mel was born in Kingston on Thames and was so loved by her nan and granddad and especially by her uncle Charlie They were all upset when they flew off not knowing when they would see each other again, but over the years as the families grew we kept in touch and we visited lots of times and it was lovely when they came to stay with us .The last time we went to a little seaside town called Leigh on sea and all the pubs were playing sea shanties like the music from the film fisherman’s friend it was a lovely day and lovely memories.all our love from all of use .june Kim Paul John Jen Loraine Karen and all of my grandchildren. I’ll miss our FaceTimes love from all xxxxx

junecharlesclack@blueyonder.co.uk - August 15, 2025 at 05:51 AM

JE

That is a lovely message Nan June.
One of my earliest memories is Mel, Bryan, Ryan and Lane coming to visit your house and us young ones all sat on the stairs and had a photo - we must find that photo!
I also remember being fascinated by Mel's American accent!

We are all thinking of you over here in sunny Essex to even sunnier Spain xx

Jenny - August 15, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JH

“ Bryan, Roy and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family. You have always been so faithful in keeping your IBM family up to date with happenings. I am sure this was a very difficult email to share. Our prayers are with you and your family my friend.

Judy Howell - August 14, 2025 at 10:57 PM



“ My earliest memories are as a toddler in Japan. Mel would remind me that I entered this world with a fury in the middle of a Typhoon and therefore explained much of my antics as a little brother. As Mel’s youngest brother I dutifully filled my role by taking advantage of every opportunity to annoy my big sister. I recall several occasions where she was trying to get ready for a date and tearing the house apart looking for her shows that I had expertly hidden. As an adult, I was 10 when she married and as she moved to North Carolina, the family moved to Arizona. We stayed in touch with occasional visits to North Carolina that included spending time at the Outer Banks. Mel was not just my sister, she was a trusted friend who I could confide in. I will miss our phone conversations on the state of world affairs and the latest antics of our cats. Love You Always.

Lance Cross - August 14, 2025 at 10:55 PM

SU

“ I grew up in the Old Farm subdivision in Raleigh and fondly recall my mom's friendship with Melonie and their connection through nursing. Wishing the family love and grace as you all navigate your loss.

Suzanne - August 13, 2025 at 08:12 PM

JL

“ It's so hard to say goodbye to a friend of more than 53 years. There are more memories than can be written in this space. Bryan, Ryan, and Lane you are all part of many of those memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

L.T. and Joy

Joy Lucas - August 13, 2025 at 05:40 PM