



Barbara "Bobbi" Bales

May 28, 1948 - February 26, 2014

Bluefield, WV - Barbara (Bobbi) Sue Bales, 65, of Winston-Salem, NC and Bluefield, WV died February 26, 2014 at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Born May 28, 1948 in Bluefield, WV, she was the daughter of Harold R. Bales and Madolyn Sue Totten Bales. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Judith Ann Bales-Wiseman. She attended local schools in Bluefield and received her BA from Marshall University in Huntington, WV in 1970 and BSW from Livingstone College in 1980. She gave 41 years of service to the Forsyth County Department of Social Services from 1971 until 2011 as Program Manager for a wide range of programs, including Services Intake, Day Care, Adoptions, Adult Self Support, and JOBS. She then worked for Goodwill Industries until 2013 as an advisor in their Work First Employment Preparation Program. She also served on numerous community service related committees and non-profit boards including Family Services, Inc., Crisis Control Ministries, United Way of Forsyth, Community Impact Council and Goodwill Industries. Bobbi Sue was devoted to her family and friends and tirelessly cared for so many people throughout her life, and all will deeply mourn this sudden and profound loss. Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Paul C. Thomas, III of Bluefield, WV; her brothers and sisters in law - Stephen P Thomas of Bluefield, WV; Connie Thomas of Lewisburg, WV; Bruce and Gail Thomas of Stow, MA; and Caryl Beth Thomas and Jacobus van-Loon of Hyde Park, MA; step-son, Michael Shay, his wife Casi and son Carter of Winston-Salem, NC;

and countless dear friends connected to her WV childhood home and her Winston-Salem community of 44 years. She did everything in her life with great passion, clear purpose and loving care. She was well known for her deep love of animals and particularly her beloved cats, her extraordinary cooking, being a voracious reader and always taking care of anyone in need. She was a most amazing woman and will be profoundly missed. A Memorial Service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, WV on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 at 2PM. A second service will be held in Winston-Salem in the near future. In lieu of flowers, remembrances should be sent to Mercer County Animal Shelter, 961 Shelter Road, Princeton, WV 24740 or Crisis Control Ministries, 200 E. 10th St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family and those wishing to share memories or condolence messages may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara "Bobbi" Bales*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *I was Bobbi's cousin but I never got to meet Bobbi..my Mother was a Bales.Bobbi was such a pretty lady..RIP Bobbi...my sympathy goes out to the family.*



Debbie Hughes Morris - July 08, 2014 at 12:58 AM



“ *It was so good to see Bobbi at the reunion several years ago, such a sweet person. I'll keep Bobbi's family in my prayers, so very sorry for their loss.*

Joy Bray - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

AJ

“ *Bobbi was a dear friend to our family, particularly my sister Jane. The two met while working on a non-profit project, and became fast friends. I can still recall her vibrant personality and cheerful laugh! She made you feel good just by being in her presence. Even after my sister’s death, Bobbi was loyal to my Mother for decades. Although I never worked with Bobbi, her good works within the community were known to many. She had a vision and commitment and dedication that is rarely seen; her outreach has had a lasting effect in Winston-Salem, and she will be sorely missed. I am so sorry that she is gone just as she and Paul could have begun years of happy retirement. Our family will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Anne Markey Jones 158 Buckingham Road Winston Salem NC 27104*

Anne Jones - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

WS

“ *She was a loving and caring friend. I will miss her.*

Walt Spilleth - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

TB

“ *So sorry for your loss. She will be missed tremendously. Praying that God be with you in this time of grief and peace will come soon.*

Tammy Berrier - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

DN

“ Paul and family, I had the honor of serving on the Board at Crisis Control Ministry with Bobbi. She and I immediately made a connection as I also grew up in Bluefield. I remember the Thomas Family through my older siblings and visiting First Presbyterian with family as a child. Bobbi always loved to speak of her family. Her love and passion for what she did as well as her compassion for others will be sorely missed. May God be with you during these times.

Dona Walk Neal - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

AM

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you and family. What an amazing person she was. Her thoughtfulness and kindness touched many people. She will be missed.

Artetta McKinney - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

LM

“ Dear Paul, We ar so sorry to learn of Bobbi Sue's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Laura & Chris Mehl - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

CL

“ Paul, I am so saddened by your loss. My memories of Bobby Sue and Judy when we lived on Fulton Street are like yesterday. They were so good to me and I think we grew up together. I had three babies at the time, and they always helped me by babysitting or just being my friends. What a wonderful person she was and will be so missed.

Cheri Harry Lambert - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

LS

“ My deepest sympathy to the family .Bobbi is a true friend and a ray of sunshine to anyone who she comes in contact with. Till we meet again, my friend, but till then I will carry on the legacy you inspired me to do...be kind and help those that are in need... love Linda

Linda Shell - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

LA

“ You will truly be missed. Heaven has gained an angel!

Lanae Anderson - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

CB

“ I remembr meeting her during my intersnship with Forsyth County DSS. Sha always had a smile on her face and I could ask for her help at any time. Mrs. Bobbi will be missed by MANY!

Connie Broadnax - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

CF

“ To the Family & Friends of Bobbi, Heaven has another Angel. I am so sorry for your loss. Bobbi was a kind and caring beautiful lady who will be missed so much. May you find comfort knowing she was loved dearly and has a special place in the hearts of many.

Cindy Fuhrken - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

CM

“ Such a lovely person, inside and out...one of the first who reached out to me when I was ill - always putting others needs before her own -for sure many jewels in her crown. May she rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers to Paul and all her loved ones.

Cindy Romano McGraw - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

SB

“ To The Family of Bobbi Bales, Bobbi Bales a virtuous woman , she was truly a jewel; far precious than rubies. She meant so much to me and touched many lives. At a time of visitation I told her to fight, she is a fighter, well Bobbi you are now a winner, you fought the good fight of faith and now you have the VICTORY. My prayers to Paul and the family. Remember the Joy of the Lord is your strength. Blessings, Sheila Baskett

Sheila Baskett - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

HR

“ One of the most wonderful people I had the pleasure of working with. Beautiful, inside and out. Bobbi will be greatly missed, but we will meet again one day! My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Holly Rogers - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

DB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I worked with Bobbi at Forsyth County DSS. I was so shocked to hear of her passing. Such an amazing woman. She will truly be missed. Rest in peace Bobbi Bales. Your work is done and now rest. You will always be remembered.

Deann Brodie - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

MF

“ I am so very sorry to learn of the loss of Bobbi Sue, who was so dear to so many people. She clearly touched many lives and her loss is felt by all those she touched, especially her family that was so dear to her. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Sending you all light and love to navigate this journey of loss. much love, michele forinash

michele forinash - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

LD

“ Paul, I met Bobbi through Leadership WS and we were friends and occasionally associates in our work. She was a lovely, kind and caring friend. We didn't see each other often but any time we met, it was as though we had just talked. We had many fun conversations about her cats, my dogs, shared laughs and losses. We talked about WVA after I returned from a trip there. I was shocked to see that she had died. She was a beautiful woman, physically and spiritually and we will all miss her. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Linda G. Davis - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

MB

“ Paul & Family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. I am blessed to have known Bobbi Sue and her mom. May our Lord comfort you and give you peace. Marie Blackwell, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Marie Blackwell - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

GC

“ Dear Paul, Steve, Caryl Beth and family, What a tremendous loss! Please accept my heartfelt sympathies for +Bobbie Sue's repose. The news came as a shock since I had heard she was doing better. But she truly IS better now. She is resting peacefully and painlessly! And one day there will be a blessed reunion for all! Love and prayers, Ginny

ginny chryssikos - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

JA

“ My prayers go out to Bobbi's family. I will miss her and carry her in my heart always.

Jennifer A - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

DP

“ *Bobbi and I have been friends since the 8th grade, and what a faithful friend she has been, through thick and thin, for all that time. Nothing written here can begin to capture the sense of loss felt by those she has left behind. It's as if the Rock of Gibraltar has tumbled into the sea. My heart goes out to all who knew this beautiful human being.*

Dave Pruett - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

J.

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Bobbi was so very loved and the loss of this amazing woman will be deeply felt. She taught so much to so many.*

J.Bell - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

BR

“ *I was shocked to learn of her passing. My mom and sister recently saw her in Winston and she was so healthy. Please accept our deepest sympathy and prayers.*

Barbara Cooper Rose - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

PA

“ *The world was a better place with you in it. It will not be the same without you. You will be missed. Thank you for being my friend.*

Pam - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

KA

“ *Rest in peace, Bobbi.*

Kathy - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

LL

“ I met Bobbi and her sister Judy more than 30 years ago when I was just a teenager. She was aalwasy a rock; steady, kind, generous, compassionate. She was always the same caring person, over the years, when I would meet her by chance - off and on. The world is diminished by her absence. I miss her already.

Lucinda Lechleider - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM

MW

“ Dear Family of Barbara Bales,

I want to express my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one.

You can be sure that comfort and hope are found in the pages of the Bible. In the Bible

book of John 5: 21. we are told " For just as the Father raises the dead up and makes them alive, so the Son also makes alive whomever he wants to" this is such a wonderful hope for us and to remind us that we can see our loved ones and friends again.

Take care of yourselves and keep those precious memories of your loved one close.

Sincerely Mrs Sandi Watkins

Mrs. Sandi Watkins - March 07, 2014 at 04:19 PM