



# Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton

MAR 13, 1937 - JUL 17, 2025



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



# Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton

MAR 13, 1937 - JUL 17, 2025

**M**ary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton, 88, passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2025. Funeral Service will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church, located at 101 Vance St., Kannapolis NC 28081. Rev. John Futterer will be officiating. Burial will occur at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Cemetery, located at 9400 Gold Hill Rd, Mt Pleasant, NC 28124 The family will receive friends at the church prior to the service from 1:30-2:45 pm.

Mary was born in Lincolnton, North Carolina and grew up on a 60-acre family farm. As a child, she immediately excelled in school with excellent grades and was very proud of achieving state honors as a 4-H Club participant. After high school, she attended Lenoir Rhyne College and earned a teacher's degree. She taught school in the Kannapolis City School System for 31 years, mostly 4th and 5th grade children.

She preceded in death by the Reverend Richard Dorton, her husband of 25 years (1983), son Richard Dorton Jr (2022). She is survived by her daughter, Fonda D Crooker (George), and grandchildren, Matthew Crooker (Ann Marie), and Daniel Crooker.

She has always been heavily involved in Kimball Lutheran Church, singing in the choir, playing the piano, teaching bible school, and on several committees and councils. She has a huge love for travel, as she has seen a good part of the world, visiting over 21 countries. Some of her highlights have been riding Camels in Australia, and swimming with turtles in the Galapagos Islands. Her other interests include gardening, reading, the beach, and animals (especially dogs and cats).

Later in life, she loved both the staff and her friends at Spring Arbor Assisted Living Center and could be seen at almost every activity they had. She lived a wonderful, fruitful life, and was adored by many.

The Crooker family would like to thank the staff of both Spring Arbor Assisted Living Center and Tillery Compassionate Care Hospice of Albemarle for all of their support and care.



## Obituary

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In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church in Kannapolis or Tillery Compassionate Care of Albemarle (960 N 1st St, Albemarle, NC 28001)



# Events


**Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton**

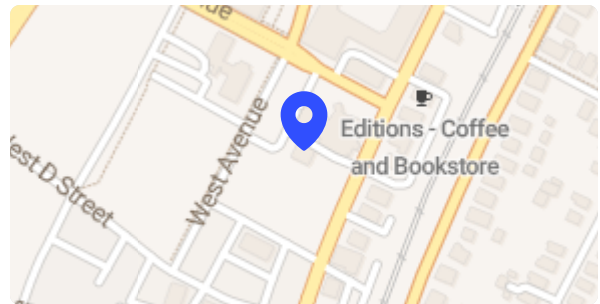
MAR 13, 1937 - JUL 17, 2025

## Visitation

 **Sunday**, July 27, 2025


 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM ET


 **Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church**  
101 Vance St., Kannapolis NC 28081

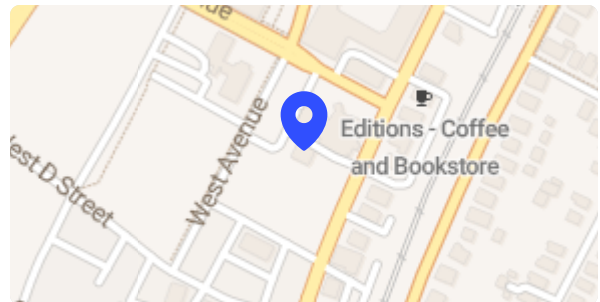


## Funeral Service

 **Sunday**, July 27, 2025

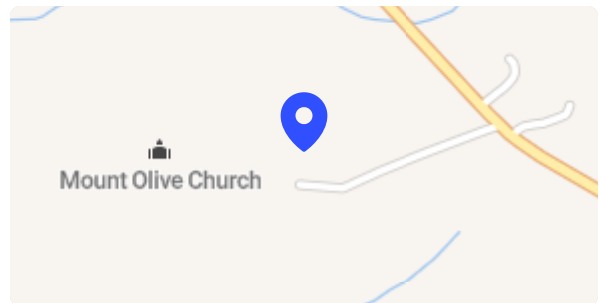
 3:00 PM ET

 **Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church**  
101 Vance St., Kannapolis NC 28081



## Cemetery Details

 **Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Cemetery**  
9400 Gold Hill Rd., Mt. Pleasant NC 28124





# Tribute Wall

## Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton

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**David Petrea** posted:

Mrs.Dorton was a wonderful teacher who touched many lives. By chance, I was in the same class with her daughter, Fonda. My condolences to the family.

July 26 at 8:18 AM



**Quality Control Unit, Des** sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Dorton family.

July 25 at 9:06 AM



**Jane Balfrey** posted:

To Fonda and family, I send my sincere condolences on the passing of your mother. When our Moms leave us, they take a piece of our heart with them. And they gave a piece of their hearts to us too. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Jane Balfrey

July 22 at 10:49 AM



**Terry Kean Ann & Ash Teed** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Dorton family.

July 19 at 9:54 AM



**Terry Kean Ann & Ash Teed** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary Elizabeth.

July 19 at 9:54 AM



**Sherma Copley** lit a candle in honor of Mary Elizabeth.

July 19 at 5:46 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton**

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**Karen Barbee** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Max, our therapy dog, and I visited Spring Arbor every month. Mrs. Mary looked forward to Max's visits. Max could tell she loved dogs and he stayed with her a little longer than the other residents. She knew just how to scratch him so he wouldn't leave her side. On his final visit, he placed his paws up on her bed so she could touch him. He stayed in that position around eight minutes. He had never done that with anyone before for that long. We will miss Mrs. Mary and treasure the visits we had with her. She was a blessing. We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to her family and honor the beautiful life Mrs. Mary so graciously lived. Love, Buddy & Karen Barbee and Max



July 18 at 4:43 PM



## Media

## Mary Elizabeth Hardy Dorton

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**Karen Barbee** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 18 at 4:43 PM



Mrs. Mary and Max



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mary Elizabeth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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