



Carol Montgomery

Carol Lemley Montgomery

April 25, 1943 – September 15, 2022

Preceded by parents and son, Mark Hamilton Gary; sister, Rhoda Jane Hall.

Survived by her loving husband, Mac Montgomery; Son, John Paul Gary (Colleen); Daughters, Rhoda J Gary and Mary Montgomery; Grandchildren, Katie Nannini (Michael); Hannah Reed (Brittany); Emily Gary; Brother, Ed Lemley (Camille); Nieces and nephews, Mary Alvice Davidson, Ruth Lemley-Goodman (Jeff), Mark Lemley (Roxanne) and three great grandchildren.

Carol was born in Birmingham, AL to Edwin and Mary Frances Lemley. Carol and Mac were married in 1970 in Columbus GA while he was assigned to Ft Benning after his first tour to Viet Nam. Their adventure together went on from there for 52 years and it was time filled with accomplishments, travel, and growth.

Shortly after they were married Carol started taking flying lessons while Mac was in flight school. It was a bold move for an Army wife at that time, but she loved going to the flight line and pulling her Cessna 150 out of the hanger for lessons. She continued her flying lessons for the next two years while raising four children with a husband back in Viet Nam again. The stories of her solo flights were great.

Carol and Mac went off to Florida Atlantic University where she began her studies and worked in the College theater. Then they were assigned to Germany and lived there for over three years. Living in a small German

village, Carol mastered shopping in German and being the liaison for local town guests to the base. She pushed and shoved past Secret Service and Army Colonels to get her assigned Mayor to meet President Ford during his visit, never one to take no for an answer.

Carol enrolled at Armstrong State in Savannah on their return and graduated in three years, Magna Cum Laude (she got a B in College Algebra). They were off the southern California where Carol had been accepted into the doctoral program in history at University of California Irvine. She studied there four years and then they transferred to New York City. Carol worked on her dissertation and taught at St John's University (where Mac was assigned). It was days of long trips for research to New York libraries, the National Archives in DC, and on-site visits to former plantation sites in Alabama.

Carol completed an absolutely great dissertation and was awarded her PhD in 1991 with all the family there in California to include her mother. They moved to North Carolina in 1988 as Mac was assigned to Ft. Bragg. After he retired, they moved to Hamlet, NC. In 1989, they bought a little place in Kure Beach. During this time Carol continued to teach with positions at Methodist University, Campbell University, Fayetteville State University, Richmond, and Sandhills Community Colleges.

In 2000, they retired to the beach and used that house as home base while traveling in their Airstream. Retirement was good but needed a little extra. Carol joined the Board of the Foundation at Cape Fear Community College and Mac was elected Mayor of Kure Beach. Carol immersed herself in support of the environment, working as a volunteer for sea turtle nesting and supporting efforts to stop industrial pollution of our air and water. Then they discovered volunteering for National Parks, Wildlife Refuges and Federal recreation areas in New Mexico. After six tours of welcoming the public to these wonderful spaces, Carol decided to stay home and enjoy being retired. Carol was a strong and highly intelligent woman who carried with her a deep sense of equity, fairness, and goodness. She was at home arguing about politics, women's rights, as well as the taste of food at a particular restaurant.

For over half a century, Carol and Mac visited many places, met and loved many people, watched family grow and bond, and never stopped loving each other.

Contributions in Carol's memory can be made to Cape Fear Community College College Foundation: <https://cfcc.edu/foundation/give/>

Tribute Wall

RN

“ Mac, wanted to let you and Carol know of Dotties' passing. My sympathies for Carrols' passing Bob Norton

Robert Norton - July 11, 2024 at 04:10 PM

SH

“ Our deepest sympathies to all members of the family. Carol had such an incredible life and a major influence on many other's life path, she will never be forgotten.

Sylvie and Richard

Sylvie and Richard Hart - September 30, 2022 at 04:21 PM

RL

“ Thinking of you all!!

Roxanne J Lemley - September 27, 2022 at 12:19 AM

DR

“ Nick and I are crushed by the death of Carol! Lots of great memories
Condolences to you and the family! Carol was truly special!
Nick and Deloris Rhodes

Deloris Rhodes - September 26, 2022 at 05:40 PM

NW

“ I am so thankful for having known Carol. She impacted so many lives for the better. I'm glad I could call her friend. All my love and prayers for you all during your time of loss.

Nicole White - September 22, 2022 at 11:42 PM

RG

“ Carol was a very special, one-of-a kind woman, making the world a better place for all she touched. Mac my thoughts are with you and your family.

Randall Gilliland - September 22, 2022 at 07:42 PM

GL

“ Mac, and family,
My heart is with you. Carol will be missed by all.
Ginny Lundeen

Ginny Lundeen - September 22, 2022 at 11:53 AM

RL

“ I love all yall

Ruth Carol Lemley-Goodman - September 21, 2022 at 08:50 PM

JU

“ In Loving Memory of Carol Montgomery,

In loving memory of a wonderful person who will be loved and missed always. A Sympathy Gift of Single Tree has been Planted In Loving Memory of Carol Montgomery courtesy of Julie.

Julie - September 21, 2022 at 05:46 PM

JF

“ Carol, I feel honored to have met you when you and Mac were volunteering at Dripping Springs, NM

Julie Francois - September 21, 2022 at 05:43 PM

AS

“ *Carol and Mac were wonderful hosts for Rhoda's high school friends and I remember that Rhoda thought the world of her. It was lovely to learn so much about her from this obituary.*

Andrew Sandor - September 21, 2022 at 05:13 PM

WM

“ *Thought and prayers with the family.*

William Morrow - September 21, 2022 at 02:04 PM