



## Mary Ancrum Wright

July 22, 1933 - June 20, 2020

Mary “Pearl” Ancrum Wright, born on July 22, 1933 in the Moberry Community in Ravenel, South Carolina entered into eternal rest June 20, 2020. Mary, as she was called by friends and Pearl as she was called by relatives was the wife of CMSgt (Ret) Edward J. Wright, USAF for sixty five wonderful years.

Mary was a determined learner. In the 1940’s, Ravenel did not have a high school, despite this she was determined to receive her high school diploma so she attended Burke High School in Charleston. She continued her education and received credentials from Roper Hospital Nursing School as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), which was a major accomplishment for a person of color during the early 1950s and a role model for the Ravenel community.

Mary was dedicated to her family and especially her husband Edward, who she called Wright. She traveled with him to the many military bases supporting him throughout his exceptional military career. She embraced the military way of life and broke cultural and racial barriers through her service as a Family Service volunteer and being very active in the Protestant Women of the Chapel.

Mary was very creative and was always learning how to do something new. She was a seamstress, fashionista, and exceptional cook. She was a serious hat collector and you would rarely see her without one of her signature hats.

Mary was also known as the “cake lady”. She made delicious holiday cakes, but her most requested was her signature sour cream pound cake.

Mary accepted Jesus’ salvation at an early age; that acceptance has propelled her life of Christian service. She is a lifelong member of Mt. Olivet Reformed Episcopal Church. She has served in many capacities – Usher, Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School, Missionary, Youth Auxiliary, Women of the Church, Pulpit Aid Board and Vestry.

Upon returning to Charleston, South Carolina after Edward’s military retirement in 1976, Mary leaped into service at Mt. Olivet. She initiated a formal group for the Women of the Church (WOC). She shared that zeal with the women’s ministry in the Diocese of the Southeast and National Reformed Episcopal Church. Throughout the decades, Sister Wright has initiated and led our multi-generational WOC to many new levels – she implemented Women’s Day, educational seminars, student tutoring during the summer, The Pink and White Tea (Annual Tea), provided stipends for college students which evolved into the Edward J. and Mary A. Wright Scholarship). She was a driving force with establishing the church parsonage, fundraising for the Church’s Building Fund, establishing the first Beginner’s Sunday School class, and chairperson of the Church Anniversary for more than fifteen years.

Mary peacefully transitioned into her eternal season of life on Saturday, June 20, (her late father Alonzo’s birthday). Our family will be forever grateful for God’s faithfulness and provisions throughout her life. During the 86 years and 11 months that we were graced with her presence, God transformed her into an “elect” lady that the Apostle John speaks of in the Second Epistle of John: “To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever.” Mary was truly an “elected” lady with elegance that shined for so many others. She and Edward lived an extraordinary life

together!

She was preceded in death by her mother, Elizabeth Reid Ancrum and father, Alonzo Ancrum, her brothers Frank and Mike Ancrum, and grandson Edward J. Wright III.

Mary was our matriarch whose memories will be lovingly cherished by Edward J. Wright, her beloved husband, and best friend of sixty five years, nine months and twelve days; daughters Wanda Wright-Sheats, (Charleston, SC); Col (Ret) Sharon B. Wright, USAF (Woodbridge, VA); Mary Ann Wright (Charleston, SC); and stepson, Col (Ret)Edward J. Wright, Jr., USAF (San Antonio, TX). Also left to honor her memory are four grandchildren: Erica (Devon) Dixon (Houston, TX); Nigel J. Sheats (Charleston, SC); Nina Sheats (Morrell) Carroll (Winnabow, NC); and "WES" Capt. William E. Sheats, II (US Air Force) Colorado Springs, CO; along with four great grandchildren: Taylor Simone, Olivia Nicole and Caleb Edward Dixon (Houston, TX) and Autumn Rose Carroll (Winnabow, NC). Surviving siblings include Mr. Samuel Ancrum; Mrs. Helen Wrighten; and one sister-in-law, Rosa Lee Ancrum (Ravenel, SC); aunts Hannah (Joe) Blake; Helen (Blease) Burno; and one uncle, Sam (Mae) Ancrum along with many special nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives, the Mt. Olivet Church family, and life-long friends: Mrs. Anne Robinson (Chillicothe OH), Mrs. Ann Lewis (Savannah, GA), CSM Tony and Mrs. Jeri Salter (Jacksonville, FL), Mrs, Elease James (Sumter, SC), and Mrs. Ethel Hughes (Mount Pleasant, SC).

Though missed by all, Mary, "Pearl" has earned her wings and the gift of her love will never be forgotten!

Please join us in celebrating her life with a public walk through viewing at Mt. Olivet RE Church at 4283 Savannah Highway, Ravenel, SC on Thursday, June 25, 2020, between 6:00-8:00pm. A private funeral will be held on Friday, June 26, 2020, at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers the family request that you make donations to the Edward J. and Mary A. Wright Scholarship Fund. PO Box 161, Ravenel, SC 29470.  
[emwrightscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:emwrightscholarship@gmail.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Viewing

JUN **25**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Olivet RE Church  
4283 Savannah Hwy  
Ravenel, SC 29470

### Service

JUN **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Private

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Ancrum Wright*

November 11, 2022 at 04:26 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ancrum Wright.*



July 01, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ *Sergeant Wright, Mary Ann, and the whole Wright clan my heartfelt sympathy goes out to your wonderful family. Mrs. Wright was a beautiful lady. She had a loving and gentle spirit. I loved how she and Sergeant Wright traveled together. A couple obviously still in love! If you saw one, the other was not far behind! They supported each other as they worked in their church, our Diocese, and in all of the organizations of which they were members. Their legacy of love, dedication, hard work, and sacrifice will continue to be seen in churches throughout our Diocese. R. Murray*

**Renee Murray** - June 30, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ancrum Wright.*



June 25, 2020 at 08:24 PM

VT

“ To my dear friend Mary Ann, with a heavy heart I send my deepest sympathy to you, your dad and family. Thanks for sharing with me some of the memorable times you had with your mom and dad that made us laugh. Hold tight to those memories! Love Vastine



Vastine Taylor - June 24, 2020 at 10:36 AM

Vera  
Washingtc

“ PEARL- It is said that these little gemstones are symbolic of the wearer's loyalty, generosity, integrity, and purity. Mary “Pearl “ A. Wright was all that and much more. Praying for your strength and peace, Family, during this difficult time. Love you MUCH!!! 🙏❤️  
Vera Washington

Vera Washington - June 24, 2020 at 08:00 AM

PR

“ Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to the entire Wright family. Sis. Wright was such a sweet and kind soul. She showed much love to my family while we were at Mt. Olivet but took a special liking to my daughter LeAnna and supported her love for teddy bears. Lol  
The 1st bear she gave her at 3 years old has been her companion even up to now at 22 in college. She will be greatly missed.



Patricee Ravenell (formerly Rhett) - June 23, 2020 at 10:43 PM

RB

“ To my dear friend, college mate, Mary Ann, & your sweet family...you have our heartfelt condolences. Your Mom was a genuine Woman of God! Such a precious jewel...May God comfort & saturate your hearts & minds with His perfect peace.  
Love & Blessings 🙏  
Rev.'s Marion & Iris Brown & family❤️

Rev. Iris J. Brown - June 23, 2020 at 03:03 PM

OO

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. She was a beautiful lady! I will always remember her kindness and beautiful smile!



Ojetta O'Bryant - June 22, 2020 at 11:21 PM

GR

“ Dear Sharon,  
I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your dear Mother. May the Good Lord grant you and family peace during this very trying time. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.  
Gloria Roseboro



Gloria J. Roseboro - June 22, 2020 at 06:24 PM

FB

“ Soror Sharon and Family,  
Our sincere condolences. Sincerely, Freda, Daniel and Dana Bredy,  
Alexandria, VA

Freda Bredy - June 22, 2020 at 11:34 AM