



## Blanche Styles Varn

December 1, 1916 - June 16, 2017

Blanche Styles Varn, a Travelers Rest, SC native and resident, passed away on Friday, June 16, 2017. Blanche's age was 100 years and 6 months at the time of her passing. Visitation and a memorial service are set for 4:30 and 5:00 pm respectively, Monday, 19 June at the Howze Mortuary, 6714 State Park Road in Travelers Rest. Reverend Raymond Burrows, the pastor of Faith Temple near Travelers Rest, will preside over the service at Howze. Burial will be at Sardis Methodist Church in Branchville, SC alongside her dear husband, Benjamin Franklin Varn, Senior on Tuesday.

Mrs. Varn was the daughter of Emery Eskew Styles and Minnie Lee McCauley Styles who owned a farm on Jackson Grove Road just outside Travelers Rest until their deaths in the late 1950s. The Styles had 13 children, 7 brothers and 6 sisters. Blanche was the oldest sister. She grew up attending Enoree Baptist Church on Tigerville Road just outside Travelers Rest.

Then 22 years old, Blanche Styles met Benjamin Varn, Senior, a native of Branchville, SC, and a U.S. Navy veteran, through her father, Emery, an avid checker player who played tournaments throughout South Carolina and North Carolina. Mr. Styles met Mr. Varn at a tournament in Charlotte, NC and invited Varn to come to the Greenville area to play. Blanche and Benjamin met and were later married in Spartanburg, SC in 1939. The new couple moved to Charleston and raised five children. They attended Bethel Methodist Church near Calhoun Street in Charleston After her husband died, Mrs Varn moved back to Travelers Rest in 1964. She has been in Travelers Rest where she

lived on Poinsett Street ever since.

Mr Varn was a 100% disabled Navy veteran from the World War I era.

Blanche nearly single handedly raised their five children in near poverty while living in a Charleston public housing development, Robert Mills Manor. The family had no car so Blanche travelled nearly 10 miles one way every week by public bus transportation to the Navy commissary to buy groceries. Amidst the hardship, Blanche raised her children, Benjamin, Jr., Dewey, Douglas, Joan and George to be excellent students and athletes. Among her children are full scholarship winners to The Citadel, Furman University and the US Air Force Academy; all around successful athletes in tennis, basketball, football and track, a high school valedictorian, a state chess champion for 5 years in a row, three state tennis champs, one with a national ranking, a PhD college computer science professor, a highly successful legal secretary and paralegal, a Green Beret Vietnam War and retired Army veteran, and three retired Air Force officers: a colonel, lieutenant colonel and major. So Mrs. Varn, Blanche, has led a hard but very fulfilling life and is now in Heaven smiling on all of us!!

# Cemetery Details

## Sardis Methodist Church Cemetery

299 Reynolds Road  
Branchville, SC 29432

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 19. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary  
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369  
Travelers Rest, SC

## Service

JUN 19. 5:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary  
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369  
Travelers Rest, SC

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *What a lovely tribute to your Mom! What fine children she raised! May special memories of your Mother sustain you at this time. Her passing should surely be a Celebration of her Life and the accomplishments she achieved-- primarily her children!*

*Joy Cornell Swiecki*



---

**Joy C Swiecki** - June 21, 2017 at 12:31 PM

JD

“ *George and Family,  
It is amazing to me that I've known you for many years and did not know so much of what is written in your mother's obituary. Her accomplishments are outstanding and show what a determined mother she was. It speaks volumes about her. Thank you for sharing her personal story. I am sorry for your loss but rejoice with you in her life and the fact that she is now in heaven.*

*Jean DeMars*

---

**Jean DeMars** - June 19, 2017 at 08:12 AM