



## Laura C. Townes

July 15, 1926 - February 11, 2020

Laura Clare (Johnson) Townes, 93, wife of the late George Franklin Townes, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Born in New Haven, CT, she was the daughter of the late Charles Harvey Johnson and Faustina Beede Johnson. She was a 1948 graduate, magna cum laude, of Swarthmore College in PA, where she received a BA in English. She became a teaching assistant at Slater-Marietta Elementary in 1977 and later worked as an administrative assistant at Slater-Marietta Health and Human Services for many years.

She was of the Quaker faith and a founding member of the Quaker meeting in Greenville, SC; past president of the League of Women Voters; one of the original members of the Travelers Rest Al-Anon; and a volunteer for the Travelers Rest Historical Society. She also attended Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and was active in the WMS.

Her commitments were motivated by a strong desire to serve the community. Among the many charities she contributed to were the Nature Conservancy, the Humane Society, and ETV.

Laura's wide range of interests included reading, gardening, astronomy, bird-watching, politics, crossword puzzles, and natural history. She was a kind and

compassionate woman and a wonderful mother, grandmother, neighbor, and friend.

Laura is survived by her daughters: Rachel Townes of Statham, GA; Clare Townes of Austin, TX; and Sarah (Peter) Godfrey of Littlehampton, England; grandchildren: Lillian and Elliot Godfrey; and a sister: Sarah (Stan) Benjamin of Southport, NC.

A memorial service will be held Saturday afternoon, February 29, 2020 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at The Howze Mortuary Chapel. The family will host a gathering at the Bryan Garden Room in the Daniel Memorial Chapel on the campus of Furman University from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The family is at the home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the League of Women Voters, Upstate Forever, The Greenville Humane Society, and Bat Conservation International.

## Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Service

FEB **29**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Laura's quiet elegance and gentleness of spirit defined all that is valued in the Quaker tradition. She was a radiant candle in our midst. I am so sorry for your loss-a sweeter spirit I know not one. Such a lovely human being, and we are all richer for having had the privilege to have been in her presence. Deepest Condolences.*  
*Cassandra Fralix Palmetto Friend*

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**Cassandra Fralix** - March 04, 2020 at 09:49 PM

SG

*Thank you so much Cassandra . I just came upon this today , on what would have been her 95th birthday . We felt the same way, and still miss her gentle nature , sense of humor, and generosity of spirit*

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**Sarah Townes Godfrey** - July 15, 2021 at 10:45 AM

DW

“ *I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of Laura's passing. She was always such a caring wonderful friend to me and her cards and occasional visits to Upstate Friends meant so much. She will be so deeply missed by so many.*

*I am ill right now, or I'd be at the visitation.*

*Her support during our son's long illness meant so much to him. He treasured the cards she so faithfully sent. Faithful is one of the adjectives I'd use to describe Laura. She was a wonderful person.*



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**Doris B Wilson** - February 15, 2020 at 07:56 PM



*Thank you, Doris, for this wonderful tribute*

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**Rachel Townes** - February 16, 2020 at 05:51 PM



*Thank you so much for your kind words , Doris. I was always so impressed at how much she thought of other people and wanted to make them feel better . It was one of the many things that made me proud to have her as a mom . I hope you feel better soon .*

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**Sarah Godfrey** - February 16, 2020 at 09:47 PM



*Doris, Your tribute is lovely. Mom valued her Quaker faith and her friends and found joy in giving. I am glad she made a difference in your son's life, too.*

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**Clare Townes** - February 18, 2020 at 11:08 PM



*I worked with Mrs. Townes at Slater Marietta Elementary in the 70s, 80s, and early 90s. Although I have not seen her since then, we always exchanged cards at Christmas up until 2018. This past Christmas was the first time I didn't hear from her. I will miss hearing from her. Her last card mentioned her participation with the Historical Society and seeing Tom Drake who was our Principal. May your fond memories bring you comfort during this time.*

*Jackie Goggins*

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**Jackie Goggins** - February 19, 2020 at 06:19 PM



*“ Sarah, Clare and Rachel, I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Townes passing. I have lasting memories of her from my childhood growing up at Pleasant Grove. She was a teacher and an example. I admired her compassion and her fight for fairness. I was lucky to get to spend a lot of Sunday afternoons at your house where she was always warm and welcoming. She gave me an appreciation for insects birds and long walks. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Love to you all*

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**Susie Trotter** - February 15, 2020 at 02:58 PM



*Thank you, Susie- she really cared about you and Sandi*

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**Rachel Townes** - February 16, 2020 at 05:53 PM



*Thank you so much Susie. It was so nice to hear from you. I realize more and more now how much she enjoyed having " commotion " as she used to say - around her - seeing people enjoy themselves and helping them however she could . You and Sandy were always close to her heart .*

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**Sarah Godfrey** - February 16, 2020 at 09:52 PM



*Susie, I enjoyed your tribute and that brings back good memories. Mom enjoyed having you and Sandy visit us and she stayed interested in both of your lives and wanted the best for you.*

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**Clare Townes** - February 18, 2020 at 10:10 PM



*“ We are so sorry to hear of Laura's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We hope you find peace and love in the memories you cherish.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,  
Your friends at the Peace Center*

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**Peace Center** - February 14, 2020 at 03:14 PM



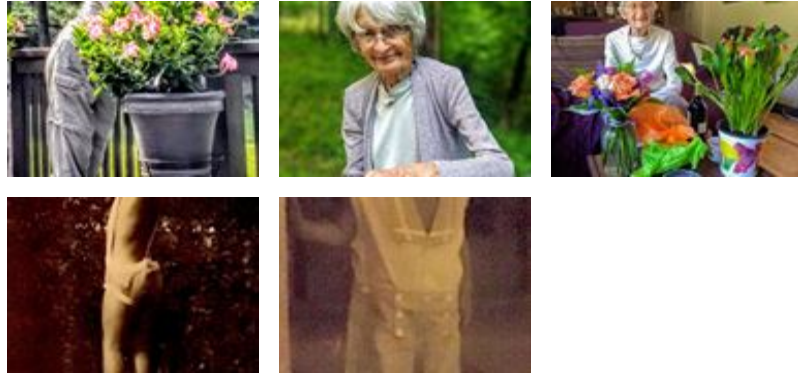
*Thank you !*

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**Sarah Godfrey** - February 16, 2020 at 09:53 PM



“ 48 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Howze Mortuary - February 14, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ What a wonderful and special lady she was. Always quiet and pleasant. I am so sorry for your loss of you Mother/grandmother.



Penny Lillies - February 14, 2020 at 07:33 AM



Thank you Penny . She enjoyed meeting you and was hopeful that people like you are trying to help Marietta . Her sympathies and interests were so wide ranging and she touched the lives of many .

Sarah Godfrey - February 16, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Margaret Dillard lit a candle in memory of Laura C. Townes



Margaret Dillard - February 13, 2020 at 01:33 PM

JD

*“ It was my pleasure in this life to have known Laura Townes. She was an upstanding and outstanding person. George Townes was always proud of her. I send my sympathy in her passing from her good and long life.*

John M. Dillard - February 13, 2020 at 01:25 PM

CT

*Thanks, John, I always deeply appreciated what you wrote about my dad when he passed away and still read it now and then. I am glad you were in their lives, too, and were a good friend to them.*

Clare Townes - February 13, 2020 at 09:56 PM



*Thank you John . My mom often talked about how you were so supportive to her when my dad died .*

Sarah Godfrey - February 16, 2020 at 10:04 PM

AC

*“ Sarah and family, I am so saddened to learn of of your mother's crossing. I am so blessed to have known her and to carry with me such memories of Laura as a friend, a supporter, and, dare I say, a kindred soul. Much love to you all.*

Allen Coleman - February 13, 2020 at 02:47 AM



*Thank you Allen . She always admired how hard you worked for the museum and so enjoyed all the programs you implemented . She was really indignant about the way you were treated which was typical of her - she hated to see injustice and disrespect . She always enjoyed talking to you .*

Sarah Godfrey - February 21, 2020 at 12:06 AM

DB

“ *The Townes family and my family were neighbors from early childhood, and Rachel and I were classmates from 1st through 12th grades. I spent many days at Laura and George Townes' home and they always made me feel loved and welcome. Laura was always present in our childhood--taking us to cultural events, school activities, piano lessons, etc. She was the epitome of a woman with a "quiet and gentle spirit." And beneath that lovely demeanor was a woman of high intelligence, a deep compassion for those with a need of any kind, and a depth of knowledge on almost any subject that was astounding. She loved nature and books and politics and her Talley Valley neighbors and we all, in turn, loved and admired her immensely. Most of all, however, Laura loved her family and was so proud of Rachel, Clare, and Sarah. We are blessed to have been part of your lives and we are so thankful you shared your mother with us all these years.*

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**Debra Barnett** - February 12, 2020 at 06:58 PM

CT

*Thanks for your beautifully written tribute, Debbie, and I appreciate your visiting with mom in the hospital. She really enjoyed talking to you.*

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**Clare Townes** - February 13, 2020 at 06:19 PM



*Thank you so much , Debbie . I think I shall read this again and again when I am feeling blue and it was so comforting to read this last week . She always appreciated your thoughtful cards . She loved your mother so and often spoke of how much she enjoyed staying with her when she was ill a few years ago. She really appreciated that and so did we ! I know you miss your mom so very much too. . What a kind person you are.*

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**Sarah Godfrey** - February 16, 2020 at 10:15 PM



“ *From times working at church with Laura when our children were in Sunbeams to working at the polls at Pumpkintown for elections I learned to respect and regard Laura Townes. There were times we took our chairs to the yard and watched the insects in the grass while waiting for voters, not to mention listening to bees in the walls of that ancient building that was heated by a pot belly stove. I have good memories of Laura and my sympathy and prayers are with Rachel and Clare and Sarah. Your mom was a remarkable neighbor and lady.*



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**Mary Robertson-Hendricks** - February 12, 2020 at 09:43 AM



*Mary, she felt exactly the same way about you- you were one of her favorite people -*

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**Rachel Townes** - February 13, 2020 at 03:56 PM

CT

*Thanks, Mary. Just recently, she was telling me how much she enjoyed working with you in Sunbeams and at the polls. She said she admired how calm and composed you were in Sunbeams.*

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**Clare Townes** - February 13, 2020 at 09:40 PM



*Thank you Mary! It was so comforting to read this post and hear your recollections about mom . We would love to hear more at the memorial! She really enjoyed knowing you and admired your composure and your company . Thank you so much for coming to the visitation !*

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**Sarah Godfrey** - February 16, 2020 at 11:47 PM

JC

“ *Janet Chandler lit a candle in memory of  
Laura C. Townes*



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**Janet Chandler** - February 11, 2020 at 08:03 PM