

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
with tiny lights like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear.
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear,
but the sounds of music can't compare, with the Christmas choir up here.*

*For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
for it is beyond description, to hear an angel sing.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor, or the peace here in this place.
Can you imagine Christmas, with our Savior, face to face?*

*I'll ask Him to light your spirit, as I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another, as you lift your eyes above.*

Please let your heart be joyful, and let your spirit sing.

*For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven,
and I'm walking with the King!*

*I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.*

*So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear,
and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all, "love" is the gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other, as my father said to do,
for I can't count the blessings or the love He has for you.*

*So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember I'm spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year!*

Forever In Our Hearts

Johnise Hardesty Roonce

January 27, 1938 - December 5, 2020

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Funeral Service

11 a.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Core Creek United Methodist Church, Newport, NC

Officiated by Pastor Michael Tolar of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Raleigh
& Pastor Bryan Lassiter of Core Creek United Methodist Church, Newport

Order of Service

Words of Grace

Greeting Pastor Bryan Lassiter

Solo, "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone" Pastor Michael Tolar

Prayer & Scripture Pastor Bryan Lassiter

Remarks From Family Geneva Boswell

Hymn, "How Great Thou Art"

Scripture & Remarks Pastor Michael Tolar

Solo, "If You Could See Me Now" Michelle Edwards Grady

The Carrying of the Coffin to the Place of Interment

Hymn, "I'll Fly Away"

Committal Pastor Michael Tolar

Benediction Pastor Bryan Lassiter

Pallbearers

Kyle Koonce
Charlie Davis

Corey Koonce
Caleb Allen

Casey Koonce
Dillon Joyner

Johnise Hardesty Koonce, 82, of New Bern, passed away on December 5, 2020, at the Riverpoint Crest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in New Bern.

Johnise was born on January 27, 1938, in Morehead City, to the late Archie and Sadie Hardesty. She loved being part of her family farm, Hardesty Farms, which was awarded the Century Farm Award by President Reagan. She drove tractors, straight shift 2 tons trucks, climbed the top rafters of tobacco barns to hang tobacco and all other jobs required to run the farm. She often shared stories of how she was always told, "Run, Johnnie-Rabbit, Run" when working with her daddy in various tasks and loved being at his side. She embraced hard work and lived by the belief of doing any task the right way with honor and integrity.

Education was also a very important part of her life. After graduating from college with a degree in Home Economics, she worked as an Extension agent in Onslow County. She later became a teacher at Caswell Developmental Center in Kinston, and then began her career with the Jones County School System. She taught Home Economics at Jones Central High School, later Jones Senior High School, and began the first all-male Home Economics class where her students had to make an apron using treadle sewing machines before being able to bring in their wild game to cook. After obtaining her master's degree, she became the Vocational Director for Jones Ct Schools. Her vast knowledge and direction touched many lives throughout the years both in and out of the classroom.

After retiring from the school system, she broadened her career by beginning a new path of selling AFLAC insurance until retiring to become her mother's caregiver. Her other love was for Cedar Island Beach and the Community. It was where she spent time with family and close friends. She loved the spoils of the water, was known for having a "Saturday night spread" of fresh fish or other delights of fresh seafood. She spent time there reading, putting together puzzles, and enjoying walks on the beach and looking at Pamlico Sound.

She is survived by her loving daughters, Carla Lou Gray of New Bern, Lee Ann Allen, and Dawn Davis and husband Chip, all of Louisburg, NC; sons, Timmy Koonce and wife Sherry of Trenton and Danny Koonce and wife Penny of Kinston; sister, Geneva Boswell of Greensboro; niece, Lisa Winslow and husband Mike of Greensboro; nephew, Neal Boswell and wife Angela of New York City; grandchildren, Kyle Koonce, Chrissy Koonce, Margo Minkler, Corey Koonce, Casey Koonce, Caleb Allen, Kassie Allen, Erin Joyner and Charlie Davis; 6 great-grandchildren; and special friend and care giver, Linda Kopp, who made her days bright and happy.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her 1st husband, B.C. Gray Jr.; 2nd husband, G.T. Koonce Jr.; and dear friend, Jimmy Hollomon.

Online condolences may be made at www.mundenfuneralhome.net
Munden Funeral Home and Cremations, Havelock, NC.