



## George T. "Jace" Ralls 1926 - 2022

George T. "Jace" Ralls, age 95 of Greensboro, NC, died at Wesley Long Hospital on Monday, July 4th, 2022, following a brief illness with cancer. At Wesley Long, he was under the attentive watch of Palliative Care of Greensboro, receiving excellent care with compassion from his physicians and nurses. The family is very grateful. Jace's Celebration of Life and Resurrection Service will be held this Sunday, July 10th, 2022, at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary of Christ United Methodist Church. An informal reception will follow directly after the service in the Gathering Space of the church. Masks are optional at Christ UMC.

Jace was born in Greensboro on September 18th, 1926, to Katherine Johnson and Marion Lee Ralls. The Ralls family were devoted members at College Place UMC, and ran the family business, The Ralls Brother's Grocery. Jace attended the Greensboro City Schools and graduated from Greensboro Senior High. In high school, while only 5'6" and 128 lbs., Jace excelled in sports. He was a 4-sport letterman his senior year, awarded the Most Outstanding Athlete, received the 1st Bob Jamieson Trophy for football, awarded MVP in basketball, and after breaking his hand playing baseball, he became a member of the mile 4x4 relay team finishing 3rd in the state meet.

At 18 he joined the Navy and proudly served his country during WWII as a corpsman at Bethesda Medical Hospital until his honorable discharge in 1947.

After the war, Jace attended Guilford College, where he continued his love of sports. On the basketball court and baseball diamond, he started in every game during his four years at Guilford College and was a 3 time recipient for Outstanding Undergraduate Athlete. Additionally at Guilford, Jace developed an interest in community service and was the President of the Men's Student Government, and in Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities. His relationship and commitment to Guilford College continued throughout his life by serving as the 2nd President of the Quaker Club, (the 1st President was Lefty Ralls, Jace's older brother), where he was honored as a Life Member. Jace was inducted to the Athletics Hall of Fame in 1972, he became the Fund-Raising Chairman of the Ragan-Brown Field House, dedicated in 1980, and he was honored with the Charles C. Hendricks '40 Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and Jace was also honored as a Life Member of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Jace enjoyed a successful 27-year career with Northwestern Mutual Life. He then returned to his beloved Guilford College to work in the Development Office with responsibilities in annual giving, alumni affairs, planned giving, and additional capital campaigns. Jace then served on staff at Christ UMC, another passion of his life, working for several years in the primary role of laity outreach. While on staff at CUMC, Jace, along with his brother Bob, hosted, organized and lead many church groups through a travel organization, Educational Opportunities, to explore and be enriched by

the history and connections of their faith by traveling to Israel, Jordan, Greece, Western Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, the Caribbean, and Alaska.

Other interests and accomplishments include being the President of the GSO Jaycees in 1961-1962; Chairman of the Greater Greensboro Open 1962; Chairman of the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Commission, during which 3 community centers were built, and land was purchased for Hagan-Stone and Bryan Parks; President of the Greensboro Sports Council, where he was active in organizing the Little Four Tournament; President of the Crescent Rotary, and Jace was active in volunteering for The United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and Hospice.

While Jace was actively involved in the community in many ways, this drive was an extension of his love for God, which was nourished by his church, Christ UMC, and the greater community. At CUMC, for which he was a member for 63 years, Jace served on committees, taught lessons, and was involved in more fundraisers than our family can remember. Jace was a member of a close-knit Sharing Group that provided deep friendships of faith not only for the Sharing Group members, but also for their children and grandchildren. Jace was passionate about organizing silent retreats for over 35 years to the Dayspring Silent Retreat Center outside of Washington, DC. Dayspring is one of the mission churches, which is under the umbrella of The Church of the Savior, whose mission statement includes the emphasis of the inward and outward journey. He was also a passionate and active leader and supporter of the NC Pilgrimage Community. The year Jace was rector, the theme he chose for that Pilgrimage weekend was from Matthew 22:36-40, where the Great Commandment is given for all "to love God and love your neighbor," he felt this with no exception of religion, race, sex or culture. This commandment was Jace's life-long purpose, mission and calling.

Jace is survived by his wife of 15 years, Bene Hendrix Ralls, and her children...Eric Hendrix (Laura), Carey Skeeters (Gordon), and Basye Hendrix, along with grandchildren...Elizabeth (James), Katie (Orson), Meredith (Nate), Randall (Michelle), and a great-granddaughter Joanna. Jace and Bene enjoyed many wonderful adventures together, but also the simple pleasures of being together and caring for each other in their home.

Jace is also survived by 2 of his own children...Anne Ralls, and Allen Ralls, Allen's children Jason, and Bailey, sister-in-law Aileen Ralls, sister-and brother-in-law Bonnie and David Amos, and many beloved family members from the Ralls and Wagoner families. Jace was predeceased by his first wife of over 40 years, Pat Wagoner Ralls, and his oldest son, George T. "Tommy" Ralls, Jr. Together, Jace and Pat provided a wonderful home and life for their children, which was filled with many memories of love and laughter from the mountains of NC to the beaches of SC, and the occasional adventures to parts beyond. We are so very grateful for all of their support, guidance and dedication to our family.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude for all who loved Jace, and for the many acts of care and support that they have received during Jace's unexpected illness. In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to Christ United Methodist Church at 410 North Holden Road, Greensboro, NC, 27410. Forbis & Dick Funeral Service is serving the Ralls family. Their website can be accessed for further information, and for friends to send memories, photos and stories about Jace, along with messages and condolences for the family at [www.forbisanddick.com](http://www.forbisanddick.com), then select the tribute for George T. "Jace" Ralls.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of George T. "Jace" Ralls please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

## Upcoming Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **10**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Christ United Methodist Church

410 N. Holden Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27410

<http://www.christgreensboro.org>

[Get Driving Directions](#)

## Reception of Friends Following Service

JUL **10**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Christ United Methodist Church

410 N. Holden Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27410

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[Get Driving Directions](#)