

## Margie South Idol

Written by Jeremiah Farmer  
Friday, 28 June 2013 08:44

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Margie South Idol, age 80, of Brookwood Avenue, Burlington, a native and former resident of Watauga County, passed away Thursday morning, June 27, 2013, after a forty-year battle with dermatomyositis.

Mrs. Idol leaves behind her husband, John L. Idol, Jr. of the home; one brother, Stanley South of Columbia, South Carolina; two nephews, and three nieces.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Austin E. South and Marbelle Casey South, and two sisters, Virginia and Elizabeth.

She married a high school classmate on Thanksgiving Day in 1955, a freshman at Appalachian State at the time of their wedding and saw him through his Ph.D at the University of Arkansas as primary breadwinner.

She attended Appalachian State, Kings Business College, and the University of Arkansas and held secretarial positions in Greensboro and Charlotte and at Appalachian State and the University of Arkansas. She enrolled for special courses in French and German at Tri-County Tech in Pendleton, South Carolina, Durham Tech, and Alamance Community College. She regularly attended literature classes taught by her husband at the Chapel Hill Senior Citizens' Center.

As an alto saxophonist, she was a member of both the marching and concert band at Appalachian State.

She was a founding member of the Boone Unitarian Fellowship.

A dedicated and talented needle artist, she belonged to the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America. A winner of numerous red and blue ribbons for her needlework, she took sweepstakes honors for a piece of Jacobean embroidery at the South Carolina state fair in 1989. She enjoyed many forms of needlework, cross-stitch, black work,

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huck-weaving, Hardanger, needlepoint, and Brazilian embroidery.

She had two one-woman shows in Clemson and Central, South Carolina. Although she sold a few pieces of her handicraft, she much preferred to make gifts for friends and family members. "I love to see the smiles of those to whom I give a piece I've done."

Her achievements came despite a crippling bout with a chronic muscle disease and a breast cancer operation that left three fingers on her right hand paralyzed.

A gifted writer, her personal letters were cherished and passed around by friends and family members. She had a knack for the telling detail and the well-turned phrase.

At Tri-county Tech, she took courses in home design and designed floor plans for her homes in Clemson and Hillsborough.

She enjoyed traveling, having toured the British Isles and Ireland with close friends from South Carolina and several European countries with her husband. She had an especial affinity for Ireland and Germany since she descended from immigrants from those two nations.

She lived in Clemson, South Carolina for 31 years, where her husband taught at Clemson University, and then for 15 years in Hillsborough, North Carolina before choosing to come to a retirement center in Burlington.

Private graveside services for Marjorie South Idol will be conducted Sunday afternoon, June 30, 2013, at 2:30 PM, at the Idol Family Cemetery. A memorial service, at the Boone Unitarian Fellowship Hall, will be announced at a later date.

The family will receive friends Saturday evening, June 29, 2013, from 7:00 until 9:00 PM, at Hampton Funeral Service. At other times, friends may call at the home of Bob and Evelina Idol, 212 Whispering Pines Road, Boone.

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Online condolences may be sent to the Idol family at [www.hamptonfuneralinc.com](http://www.hamptonfuneralinc.com).

Hampton Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of the arrangements.