

Obituary announcements

Barbara Anne Meetze, formerly of Heath Springs

Barbara Anne Meetze passed away on February 6, 2026, at her residence in Andover, Massachusetts, with her daughter and caretakers by her side.

Barbara was born in Heath Springs, South Carolina, on August 11, 1946, to Murray O'Neil Meetze, a Carpenter, and Margaret Caroline (Harris) Meetze, a Home Economics teacher. She was Valedictorian of the Heath Springs High School class of 1964 and went on to earn her Bachelors of Arts in Education at the University of South Carolina, where she was also a member of Zeta Tau Alpha social fraternity and Kappa Delta Epsilon honorary education sorority. For close to 30 years, Barbara was a Librarian at South Mecklenburg High School, where she helped students begin the literary magazine Dancing on the Moon in the early 1990s. A published writer herself, Barbara was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize in 1995 for her short story "Remnant on This Earth".

An ebullient, creative, welcoming spirit, Barbara filled every space she occupied. She surrounded herself with beautiful things—every shelf and surface a tableau of books and pottery and pictures, her walls lined with overflowing bookshelves, her gardens spilling with wild color. She filled volumes of journals and pages and pages of poetry,



short stories, essays, and one unpublished novel. A restless soul, she loved deeply and laughed joyfully.

Barbara leaves behind her daughter Megan (Long), son-in-law Seth Laskarzewski, and grandchildren Zachary and Autumn "AJ" Laskarzewski, of Somerville, Massachusetts; her sister Linda Meetze Lucas of Lancaster, South Carolina; her brother Dr. Russell Meetze of Vero Beach, Florida; her brother and sister-in-law Dr. William "Bill" and Karen (Catoe) Meetze, of Greenville, North Carolina; and nieces, nephews, and friends spread from the Carolinas to the Pacific Northwest. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Murray O'Neil "Skip" Meetze, Jr.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 1:00-4:00 at The Timber Raille, York, South Carolina. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations in Barbara's honor can be made to Cure PSP at www.psp.org.

Reverend Dr. Archie Coleman Neal, formerly of Kershaw

Reverend Dr. Archie Coleman Neal, age 93, of Easley, South Carolina, was born on October 19, 1932, in Kershaw, South Carolina. He passed away peacefully on February 18, 2026, surrounded by his son, Archie Kim Neal, and daughter-in-law, Karen Martin Neal.



He was the son of the late Rev. Leroy Troy Neal and Etta Mae Hammond Neal. On August 14, 1953, he married the love of his life, Sybil Adams Neal, who preceded him in death on September 14, 2022. Their marriage of 69 years was marked by faith, devotion, and unwavering partnership in ministry and family. Dr. Neal is survived by his son, Archie Kim Neal (Karen) of Easley, South Carolina; three grandchildren, Ashley Neal, Katie Craven (Chance), and Adam Neal (Chelsea); and five great-grandchildren, Elijah, Scarlett, Isaac, Ridge, and Jeremiah. He is also survived by his brother, Rev. Steve Neal (Carol), along with numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and beloved wife, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Claudia Williams (Douglas), Edith Lowry (Howard), Doris Hancock (Hank), Marion Neal (Doris), and Brue Neal (Phyllis). Dr. Neal's formal education began with his graduation from Kershaw High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from Furman University, completing his studies in just two and a half years. He later attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received both a Master

of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree. He faithfully served as Pastor of Thorn Hill Baptist Church in Kershaw (1959-1963); Hyde Park Baptist Church in Lancaster (1963-1983); Deer Park Baptist Church in Charleston (1983-1985); and First Baptist Church in Cheraw (1985-1995). He also served as interim pastor for five churches in the Kershaw and Lancaster areas.

Beyond the local church, Dr. Neal served on the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and on the Board of Trustees for the Baptist Hospital System in Columbia and Easley. He was appointed Moderator of the Moriah Association of Baptist Churches in South Carolina and was honored with numerous awards from religious, civic, and educational organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution History Award.

He also proudly served his country in the United States Navy for three and a half years. During that time, he became the youngest individual to achieve the rank of Electrician's Mate Second Class. A veteran of the Korean War, he served aboard the USS Yorktown, known as "The Fighting Lady." Reverend Dr. Neal was a devoted servant of God, a

News from Pine Tree Hill

Pine Tree Hill Elementary School proudly celebrated Black History Month with a special Heritage Tea Showcase today. The showcase featured three beautiful musical selections performed by our chorus. Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades also brought history to life through a "Wax Museum," where they researched and portrayed important African Americans, sharing their accomplishments and impact with our school community. It was a powerful celebration of learning, culture, and excellence!



Below - 3rd grade students with their wax museum projects ready to share their facts with visitors

At left - 5th grade student Jaiden Cox is ready to share all about Barack Obama was part of Pine Tree Hill's living wax museum
Below - Pine Tree Hill Chorus performing Lift Every Voice and Song
At left - 4th grade student Willow Eig presents her living



wax museum project to visitors
Below - 4th grade student Princess Davis presents her research about Gabby Douglas to visitors



loving husband and father, and a shepherd to countless congregations. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at Hyde Park Baptist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina, on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. The service will be officiated by Reverend Tim Lowry, Dr. Neal's nephew. Visitation will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in memory to Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011 Washington, DC 20090-6011, or to Hospice of the Upstate, 1835 Rogers Road, Anderson, SC 26621. Visit RobinsonFuneralHomes.com or Robinson Funeral Home & Crematory-Downtown, Easley.

