



Faith Hillier Sellers

April 9, 1925 - October 19, 2021

One of Summerville's most caring and encouraging community leaders, Faith Hillier Sellers, 96, wife of the late Carl R. Sellers, died Tuesday, October 19, at The Village of Summerville, surrounded by her Family. Faith was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 9, 1925, to the late William H. Hillier and Mary Fay Hillier. She was predeceased by her parents and sister, Phyllis Hillier Ward. She is survived by her two children, Carol Sellers Davis, (Laverne) of Summerville SC and Carl Ross Sellers (Margaret) of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. four grandsons, John Davis (Rebecca), Jared Davis (Iris), Chip Sellers (Hollen), Ryan Sellers (Terry); and six great-grandchildren, Julia Kate Davis, Carlton Davis, Natalya Davis, Isabella Davis, Nicholas Davis, Russell Sellers, and her nieces and nephews, Charles Ward, William Ward, Virginia Ward, Faith Ward and their children. At a young age, Faith wanted to do her part to make the world a better place. She loved dancing the night away at the USO in Philadelphia with many young soldiers headed to World War II in Europe. She graduated from John Bartram High School in Philadelphia where she was the Editor of the school newspaper and the author of the advice column. At the age of 17, she further assisted with the war effort by using her positive way with words to write letters to many homesick U.S. soldiers serving overseas. While attending the University of Pennsylvania during the war, she worked part time at Eastman Kodak. She recollected in detail the day the plant processed its first roll of film taken during the liberation of a concentration camp. She recalled the complete silence that

fell on all of the workers, as they became aware of the atrocities that had taken place. “ I will never forget that day, that such a horrific action could have taken place in a so-called civilized world, “ Faith said. One of the young soldiers with whom she corresponded was a young radio engineer from Columbia, SC. While on leave in 1945, the young soldier went to Philadelphia to thank the young woman who had faithfully written him such uplifting news from home. Their love story continued, Carl and Faith were married on April 13, 1946. Their marriage continued for 62 years until Carl’s death. Carl’s career with Greyhound took the young couple and later their two children from Columbia to Beaufort and to Raleigh before settling in Charleston, SC in 1958. Throughout her long and full life, Faith’s career shared the common thread of serving others. In 1959, she began her career as a kindergarten teacher and later served as the director of the Preschool Program at First Baptist Church School in Charleston. For many summers, she directed summer day camp programs for the children of migrant farm workers on John’s Island, SC. She was a member and later served as the president of SACUS, the Southern Association of Children Under Six. During this time, SACUS promoted an initiative leading to the SC legislation’s funding of 5-year-kindergarten for all public schools. When the family moved to Summerville, SC in 1968, Faith worked as a kindergarten teacher at the Coastal Center and was later named the Director of Training. It was at the Coastal Center where she rode out Hurricane Hugo in 1989 with the staff and residents. She often recalled the events of that night in the gym, trying to maintain a sense of calm while braving the storm to get water from the pool to flush the toilets. She retired as Director of Training Services of the Coastal Region, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. She continued her commitment to education by serving on the Dorchester County Board of Education and was later elected chairman. During that time, the board consolidated Dorchester County into two Districts by combining Districts 1 and 3 to create District 4. Her professional memberships also included serving as a charter board member of the Silver Haired Legislature, the Women’s Club of

Charleston, board member of the Charleston Concert Association, Board of Directors Flowertown Players, board of Dorchester Seniors, Inc, board of Summerville Music Club, the board of AARP- Summerville Chapter, Chairman of Dorchester County Human Development Board, and board member Education Committee of Tri – County Head Start. In support of the Summerville Business Community she served on the Board of the Summerville Museum, Berkeley Dorchester Economic and Trident United Way.

Over the past years she was a member of the Summerville Noon Lions Club, Summerville Orchestra Friends and member and later President of the Flowertown Garden Club. Her membership in the Suzannah Smith Elliot Chapter of the Daughters of The American Revolution was of special joy as she passed this torch to her daughter, Carol. Faith was also an enthusiastic volunteer for many organizations. Once described as a “ tiny lady with a big smile” she also had a big heart and had lovely things to say about the people she met. For our family, she was our role model and we were all inspired by her compassion, enthusiasm, and energy. Faith received many awards and accolades in her life. She received The Order Of The Palmetto from Governor Mark Sanford, The Governor’s Volunteer Service Award from Governor Hodges, the Service to Mankind Award from Jim Hodges, the Contribution to Education Award from the Association of School Psychologists, the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, from the Chamber of Greater Summerville/Dorchester County and was Honored by the “ High Profile” recognition in The Post and Courier . Her work as a Silver Hair Legislator and as Chairman of the Dorchester County Human Development Board led to the fruition of her dream to have senior centers for Dorchester County, one of which was later named for her. However, her crowning achievement, the one she was most proud of was her family. We were the recipients of her sweetly worded notes and cards, her gently worded power of suggestion, and her ability to make you feel

that you were the most special person in the room. Life at the Village of Summerville brought great joy to mother and to our father. She was blessed to have Dr. Castellone, Jessica, Savannah, Stella, Alice, Mary, Jasmine, Vicki and many others to care for her. They were her friends, not just her caregivers. Our family will forever be indebted to them. Her friends at the Village brought joy to her each day. One friend stated that Faith left her handprint on all of us and that her service was not for recognition but for them. In the past few months, her care was supported by Intrepid Hospice Service. Each member of their team provided compassionate care while keeping our family abreast of any changes. A Celebration of Life service will be held in Summerville Baptist Church on Monday, October 25 at 11:00. Visitation will be held at 10:00 prior to the service in the Sanctuary. In lieu of Flowers, memorials may be sent to The Village at Summerville through the PCSC Foundation, 2817 Ashland Rd, Columbia SC 29210 , Summerville Baptist Church 417 Central Avenue Summerville, SC 29483, or The Faith Sellers Senior Center, Flower Garden Project, 312 N. Laurel Street Summerville, SC 29483.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 S. MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843) 873-4040

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends & Family

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Summerville Baptist Church
417 Central Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Summerville Baptist Church
417 Central Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Tribute Wall



“ *Faith Hillier Sellers*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Carol, I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was an unusually outstanding and generous person, and I know that you are proud of her. God bless you and your family. Sincerely, Selina Hathaway*

Selina Hathaway - November 03, 2021 at 08:43 AM



“ *Miss Faith was a powerful force that benefitted the child care industry in SC. Her help in forming the South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SACUS - now known as SCECA) is a testament to her love of children. SCECA is saddened to hear of Ms. Faith's passing.*

Becky Wardlaw - November 01, 2021 at 12:36 PM

SB

“ Dear family of Ms. Faith Sellers:

I had the opportunity to work with Ms. Sellers on an Arts Program and we had lovely discussions. Also visited her Faith Seller Senior Center. I wrote a piece about my visit to an assisted living facility in Florida. It was published in the Post and Courier and Ms. Sellers called to tell me how she felt the article well outlined the life of such facilities and did so beautifully. Her compliment is so treasured. She thought of others, appreciated all and gave herself willingly to her community. I am proud to have shared the above with her and my blessings to all her family for their peace of mind and comfort of spirit during this difficult time.

*Sincerely, Shirley B. Berardo - 101 Schooner Bend Ave,
Summerville, SC 29486*

Shirley B. Berardo - October 27, 2021 at 02:33 PM

KL

“ *The beautifully written obituary by Faith's family is a bittersweet tribute to a wonderful woman. I remember Carl and Faith first from the time Carl was involved in area politics. She and Carl were such a complimentary couple and I enjoyed every time I had the pleasure to talk with them.*

In 1991, in response to President Clinton's Solid Waste Act, we joined efforts attending a pilot program (first in the State) for a Clemson Extension program called Master Waste Educator. I believe it was an eight week class in which we met with about ten other volunteers under the lead of Geri Duke. We gained a lot of information and also visited waste facilities around SC and also a Duke facility in NC. We spent a lot of time together in an effort to solve waste problems for the county as well as the general population.

We became lifelong friends and I was pleased that in later years she always remembered me whenever we saw each other in town. I visited with her a few times at the Presbyterian home in the dining room and she was so pleasant and friendly and remembered our time in the Waste class. I have to say Faith was one of, if not the nicest person I have ever known and had great courage and dedication.

My sympathy is extended to the family of this unforgettable little woman with a big heart and large ideas; she will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Kendra Linkowski

Kendra Linkowski - October 27, 2021 at 11:32 AM

EW

“ I met Faith when I joined the Board at the Senior Center. Right away, I knew she would be my friend. She was never loud or boastful, yet her very presence showed dignity, kindness, and care for everyone. She was always willing to help with anything going on. I never heard her complain: she always saw the "good" in people. I'm sad that she's gone from us, but angels are usually sent to us for a season. God's plan is always for our best interest, and He will comfort all of us now that Faith is with Him. We will cherish her memories. *Emily Watts*

Emily Watts - October 26, 2021 at 03:41 PM

MS

“Faith served as secretary to my presidency on the board of directors of Flowertown Players. She definitely made a sweet impression upon my heart. Ever time I came in contact she would say Now Monica do you remember those late board meetings? I would smile and say yes ma'am. Then we would give me a big hug.

Later on I did several interactive dinner theaters in Summerville. On one occasion, the actors had to choose a person to take notes and they chose Faith. She was to play the secretary to a Judge and take notes. True to her abilities, Faith did exactly as told and when the Judge asked her to read back the transcript, Faith did exactly that. The surprised look on the actor's face was priceless. The actor couldn't go on with the scripted dialogue expecting the audience member to be flustered, so the actor said well don't be late coming to work tomorrow!

Faith will always be remembered as being a show stopper wherever she went and the lives she touched. She has now joined Carl who was also a very special person.

Blessings to the entire family on having such role models in your life.

Monica Shows

Monica Shows - October 25, 2021 at 12:37 PM

DR

“ Carol:

Susan and I were very sorry to learn of your mother's death. We have known her for a long time. I first met your mother and your father when I cam to Baptist College in 1968. My future wife Susan worked for your dad at Baptist College. Much more recently I served on the Board of the Faith Sellers Senior Center with her. She was always kind and thoughtful and devoted to helping others. She certainly will be missed.

David Rison

David Rison - October 24, 2021 at 05:20 PM

BD

“ Board of Directors purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Faith Hillier Sellers.



Board of Directors - October 21, 2021 at 09:13 PM