



## Verida Marchette

February 25, 1930 - June 29, 2020

Boxwood Plantation

Darlington County, SC

Verida Blackwell Marchette, 90, died Monday, June 29, 2020.

Celebration of her life will be held Friday, July 3, 2020, 10 AM at Boxwood Plantation. Friends are asked to wear a mask and bring a chair if needed, no suits or ties just come as you are. A private burial will be held later in the day in the family cemetery.

Verida was born on Evans Street in downtown Florence in 1930.. She was the daughter of the late Henry Jackson and Jacqueline Anderson Blackwell. She and her husband, Don, lived in many places while he had a long and rewarding military career. After Don retired, they returned to the family homeplace, Boxwood Plantation, and her home church, First Presbyterian Church. Verida had a bright and eventful life. She and Don raised three children who in turn provided them with a large family, strewn all over the county. She was active in her community having served in many volunteer roles over the years, most for the betterment of children. Some included the South Carolina Guardian ad litem Program and The Billie Hardee Home for Boys. She was a Charter Member and strong force in the formation of The South Darlington Rural Fire Department. In her "spare time" she enjoyed riding her horses, her favorites being her Paso Fino's, Don Pedro and Delito.

She was a member of the Swamp Fox Saddle Club, and a past Representative in the South Carolina Horse Council. She was very influential in the formation of The Governor's Trail Ride, a ride to promote "Putting South Carolina's Families First", with her nephew, then Governor, David Beasley. She loved giving gifts; some you may not want to receive! She was a story teller, and had one for every person she ever met! All of these attributes and experiences made up a small part of this wonderful lady, but her legacy will be her love for the Lord, and the unique way she shined his light into all of us who were fortunate enough to know her.

Some of her family described her as, "The Best of the Best", "A whole lot of love AND a little hot sauce", "An endearing friend, confidant, and prankster who made THE BEST chicken salad", "She had the most original spirit of any person I've ever known" "Funny, loving, cranky, opinionated, loyal, and devoted" and "Wacko".

Verida is survived by her three sons, Donald E. "Gip" Marchette and wife Cathy of Stephens, Georgia, Captain Louis Vinson Marchette (Retired) and wife Fran of Long Beach, Mississippi, and Jackson Alan Marchette and wife, Beth of Florence; Six grandchildren, Reade Marchette and wife Jessie, Captain Teal Marchette, US Army and wife, Bea, Rushing Marchette and wife Rachel, Rose Morrison and husband Brian, Becca Moya Mendez, and husband Jimmy, and Rachael Hudson and husband Captain Ian Hudson, USAF; thirteen great-grandchildren; as well as many other "adopted" children and grandchildren.

Prior to her death she experienced the loss of many loved ones to include her husband, Lt. Col. Donald Eugene Marchette, (Retired) her sister, Jacadelle Blackwell Beasley, and her nephew, Henry Wesley "Wes" Beasley.

The family recommends memorials be made to: Salem Black River

Presbyterian Church, 210 Serenity Circle, Mayesville, SC 29104

Arrangements are being directed by Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home of  
Darlington.

# Tribute Wall

“ A Mighty Oak has Fallen Today.

*A mighty oak has fallen today, she sprouted her first root on February 25, 1930. This tree has weathered many a storm by growing up during the depression, battling thru World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq and Afghanistan where she had family members in each conflict. From a distance she appeared to be just a small bush, however, once you approached her you would be amazed by her presence and sense of self assurance.*

*Thru the years she has bore acorns which have produced many oaks of the same strength, quality, and statue. Many others have benefited from the far reaching protection and example of her strong and far reaching branches. Others have leaned on her firm straight and upright trunk for guidance during times of hardship or trouble along their lives and have returned over the years to thank her for her selfish giving nature. She was always willing to share the fruits of her labors including her and her sister's world famous "Chewies", which were made with Pecans, which we all know don't grow on Oak trees.*

*Her growth and giving nature has always provided plenty of nourishment for all, whether furred, feathered, haired or fleshed. There were none who were ever turned away from her sheltering leaves and she was never shy away from providing wisdom, guidance of the way she would handle anything. She was always willing to lend a limb to a kid to climb on, hang a tire swing on, or just to sit in. She loved to watch and listen to the birds sing and knew them all by name. It made her days to have any and all dogs to lay or dig in the dirt under her shade, but Pugs and Golden Retrievers held the highest honors of being family to her. Cats to her were a lower class of dogs and she never could find one she couldn't befriend.*

*Her roots ran deep into the soil in order to reach the rivers of pure clean life giving water that only can be found by determination and*

*hard work. She withstood the winds of Hurricane Hugo without hiding and even rode out a Typhoon aboard a ship in the Pacific Ocean halfway around the world. Life has been one big adventure after another and she never shied from a challenge. Riding horses till she was 83 years old only having to stop after being thrown and breaking 3 ribs, but not before climbing back on the horse's back to tame it once again to show what she was made of and whom was in control.*

*Today, June 29, 2020, 90 years later, Verida Frances Blackwell Marchette, wife, mom, GG, has fallen, not downward but upward, into our Heavenly Father's forgiving and merciful arms. She is at peace and can now rest knowing she has left a legacy of strength, not measured by her size, but by her heart. The heart of a Oak Tree is found deep in the center of the trunk. It's strength is gained over the years from being connected to its roots deeply buried in the hard ground and holding firm while the wind blows its large canopy of leaves, which act like sails, pulling hard against its trunk thru to its roots firmly planted. Only now has she learned who is in control and whom loves her more than life itself and the mighty oak now must bend and bow to our Lord and Savior in worship.*

*JAM*

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**Jack Marchette** - July 06, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Verida Marchette.*



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July 03, 2020 at 06:08 AM

RH

“ So many memories of Mabel Don and Verida. Always welcoming and sharing. Our BBQ runs, quiet talks and sense of family will be missed but not forgotten.

Randy Harbour - July 02, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Verida Marchette.



July 02, 2020 at 10:49 AM

RM

“ Ray and Linda Morrison purchased the Serene R etreat for the family of Verida Marchette.



Ray and Linda Morrison - June 30, 2020 at 02:53 PM

NI

“ I referred to Verida as my "second mom". She would call me and announce her title when she wanted me to know the directions she was getting ready to order had the authority of a mother. She called me one day with such authority and told me she was reading something about statistics involving young people and drowning incidents. This led her to believe I needed to make sure all the boys in the boy's home had swimming lessons. She "suggested" I call around and find someone that will teach swimming lessons and let her know what the cost was. She gave me a deadline on when she needed to hear back from me. I did as I was told. That summer, everyone in Billie Hardee Home for Boys (including staff), learned to swim. I will miss her!

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**Niki** - June 30, 2020 at 08:38 AM

JT

Verida was someone who could not easily be forgotten. Serving with her at the Billie Hardee Home for Boys was an honor.

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**Jean tyner** - June 30, 2020 at 02:39 PM

JM

Nikki,  
Best description of any encounter with our mom I've ever heard. Thank you for sharing.

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**Jack Marchette** - July 01, 2020 at 02:51 PM

KM

Jack and Gip,  
My thoughts and prayers to you Gip and family on the loss of your Mom. I remember her dropping y'all off for the 477 Scout camp outs. We sure had some fun times on those trips and I miss them. Your Mom was always there for you! My thoughts and prayers for all of you, and family and friends.

*Kin McKenzie*

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**Kin McKenzie** - July 01, 2020 at 10:07 PM

BM

*To know her was to love her ; she was a little pack of dynamite with as much love as authority. She will be missed but remembered!*

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**Beth P Miles** - July 03, 2020 at 01:36 PM



*Gip, Lou, Jack, sad to hear of your mom's passing. I think of your family often. Even though your family only lived a short time on Jervis St. in Springfield, Va. you were always our favorite neighbors. God Bless! Don Horan*

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**Don Horan** - November 20, 2020 at 04:39 PM