



## Shirley Ellen Brooks

August 31, 2017

Shirley Ellen Brooks, nee: Benner, 83, of Woodstown, passed away Thursday, August 31, 2017, at her home in Woodstown, NJ, after a battle with cancer. She was born November 8, 1933, in Woodbury NJ, daughter of the late Roland and Susan (Ault) Benner.

Shirley graduated from Salem High School in 1951. She attended the Goldey-Beacom Business College in Wilmington DE, receiving a Stenographic Diploma. She worked several years for a real estate firm in Woodstown NJ and became a licensed agent. She attended night school and received a B.S. in Sociology (1972) and an M.S. in Counseling and Guidance (1976) from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), where she earned the Glassboro Medallion for "Scholarly Achievement in Sociology".

In 1975, she joined the Salem Unit of the New Jersey ARC, where she worked passionately for 35 years. She retired from the ARC in 2011 as Associate Executive Director, remaining active and serving as board member up to her passing. Shirley was instrumental in growing the ARC's original single program to now 17, and it's number of consumers from 20 to 200.

In 1986, Shirley was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Salem County Inter-Agency Council of Human Services. In 1991, she became the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Salem, and was elected President in 1993. She was also active in the American Association of University Women, in 2000 receiving the Women as Agents of Change Award from the AAUW of New Jersey. In 2010 the Salem County Chamber of Commerce presented Shirley with the Crystal Rose Award for Lifetime Achievement, which while accepting she said, "I think there are three important things in a person's life: family, career and community."

She traveled to Sweden in 1987 for the awarding of the Nobel Prize to her stepfather Charles Pedersen, a research chemist with DuPont.

She is survived by her husband of 20 years Dr. Robert Brooks, children Bobbie Hartz, Margie Phillips and husband Mike, Ron Evans and wife Monique, grandchildren Darryl Hartz, Nikki Hartz, Katie Phillips, Brooke Phillips, Chris Bannan and wife Chrissy, Silver Evans, Chad Evans, and Grant Evans, great-grandchildren Kimberly, Kevin, Cassandra, and Savannah Bannan, and brother-in-law Richard Cleaveland. Preceded in death by her sister Barbara Cleaveland and ex-husband Charles Evans.

A time for family and friends to gather and celebrate Shirley's life will be on

September 11, 2017 at the Parish Center of The Catholic Community of the Holy Spirit, St. Joseph's RC Church, in Woodstown, NJ. Entrance to the Parish Center is on Elm Street across from the funeral home, which is located at 64 Broad St. The family will begin to greet those who wish to pay their respects starting at 1 PM with a service following at 3 PM. Interment is private.

In Shirley's memory memorial donations may be made to The Arc of Salem County. The Salem Health & Wellness Foundation has selected The Arc of Salem County as a participant in its 2017 Matching Gift Program. As a result donations should be made out and mailed to: Salem Health & Wellness Foundation, 91-A South Virginia Ave., Carney's Point, NJ 08069. In the memo area of the check designate your donation to The Arc of Salem County. [www.adamsfuneralhome.org](http://www.adamsfuneralhome.org)

# Cemetery Details

**Private Interment**

# Previous Events

**The family will be available to greet:**

SEP 11. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Catholic Community of the Holy Spirit Woodstown Parish Center  
2 Lamplighter Lane  
Woodstown, NJ 08098

**Memorial Service**

SEP 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

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