



Rev. Richard Giles Laurens Sr.

November 11, 1925 - October 19, 2019

Rev. Richard Giles Laurens, Sr., widower of Elsie Tomlinson Laurens, passed away on October 19, 2019. His first wife was the late Jane Kendrick Laurens. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, son of the late Rutledge Laurens Sr., and Ruth Giles Laurens. Rev. Laurens grew up in Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta with a desire from early childhood to be a Presbyterian minister. He enlisted at the age of 17 in the US Army and was deployed to France in 1944 as a Private in the 7th Army 100th Division in Marseilles, France. He crossed the Rhine River at Mannheim, Germany in 1945 and was awarded a Bronze Star for heroic action behind enemy lines. He enrolled in Davidson College in the fall of 1945 under the GI Bill and graduated in 1949 Summa Cum Laude and as a Valedictorian. Rev. Laurens graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta in 1952 and ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church of the US. He was called to be the pastor in Wadesboro, NC in 1952 then accepts a call to be a pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC in 1955. While in Charleston he oversaw the construction of a new sanctuary. He was called to serve in 1961 to First Presbyterian Church in Greer, SC and presided over the tumultuous years of the 1960's. He left Greer in 1976 to serve as an associate pastor in Selma, Alabama. He returned to Atlanta in 1980 to focus on health concerns of wife Jane Kendrick Laurens. He accepted a call to be pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Georgia in 1982. Rev. Laurens retired in 1992 with second wife, Elsie Tomlinson Laurens to Sky Lake, Georgia. He moved to Greenville, SC in 2010

and experienced declining health till moving to NHC Greenville in 2018. Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Richard G. Laurens, Jr., and Kathryn Anne of Greenville; two step-daughters, Lisa Bachelor and Lynn Hardy; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Rev. Laurens was predeceased by a daughter, Elizabeth Kendrick Laurens; a brother, Rutledge Laurens, Jr. and three stillborn children.

A memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 25, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church, Greer. A private burial will be held in Greenwood Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia.

Visitation will be held 1:00 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. Friday in the Social Hall at the church.

The family is at the home of the son.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church Greer, 100 School Street, Greer, SC 29651.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Greer
100 School Street
Greer, SC 29651

Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Greer
100 School Street
Greer, SC 29651

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Dick was my great uncle, my grandpa’s brother. A wonderful memory I have with him is when he came to visit me, my mom, dad, and brother when we were living in Italy when I was seven. We went to the beach, the Italian markets, etc. I regret that I didn’t see more of him especially after I grew up. But I remember him fondly starting at a very young age. He is one of the nicest people I ever knew.

Lauren Mitchell - February 02 at 05:23 AM

MS

“ I was blessed for my life to touch Rev.Laurens life in a youth group in the summer of 1969. He invited the group down to a beach house in the Charleston area that summer. I enjoyed that weekend. He was very nice and kind to me and I have always remembered that. My deepest sympathy goes out to the Laurens family.

Mike Sweet - November 06, 2019 at 09:41 AM

RR

“ I wish to express my sympathy to Dick's family. I have known him here at the Gardens at Eastside. He was my neighbor for some time, and I am glad he is now at peace.

-Rosemary Reed

Rosemary Reed - October 26, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Rev. Richard Giles Laurens Sr..*



October 25, 2019 at 07:53 AM



“ *Many condolences to all the family of this interesting and joyful man. I met Dick after he married my Aunt Elsie and was always struck by his youthful, positive energy. An avid biker well into his 80's, he was a model for staying fit, healthy and engaged in life. He and Elsie were always fun to be with and we enjoyed several vacations with them to their timeshares, playing cards and working on jigsaw puzzles. His miniature train collection and set up was the most elaborate I had ever seen and he enjoyed many hours collecting, creating and "playing" with them. He was a great example of never losing your youthful, playful engagement with life. Dick was a man of substance and spiritual depth. He had a positive impact on many people and will always be appreciated for the love and good energy he brought to life.*

*Many condolences,
Debbie Lane and Gary Yoakum*

Debbie Lane - October 23, 2019 at 10:58 PM

MM

“ Dick Lauren’s was one of the most generous, caring and selfless men I ever new. I met Reverend Lauren’s in 1972 when I moved to South Carolina and started attending First Presbyterian Church in Greer with my parents. I came to know his adopted Daughter, Betsy very well as we were both in the band. I met my current wife through Betsy and the Church. All of us were in the Youth Group. As most High School Romances go mine and Susan’s (Betsy’s best friend) ended. However, in 1983 after returning from Military Service I actually ran into Susan again and in 1987 we were Married Reverend Lauren’s which meant the world to me and was the happiest day of my life.

As I said before he was a non judgmental man that encouraged everyone to be themselves. In the ‘70’s we were winding down from the Hippies of the ‘60’s and young people were starting to question things such as Church and Jesus. I was no exception and several of my closet friends were the same way. We challenged the status quo of always wearing a Coat and Tie to Church. We wanted to wear Blue Jeans instead. That was completely unheard of in other Churches in Greer! Instead of clamping down on us he welcomed us as we were. He said “Jesus does not judge you for what you wear to Church and neither will I.” He said he was just glad we were there. I am sure he took a lot of flack from the Elders but he stood his ground.

There are so many wonderful stories I could share about this Man if God but I will close for now.

Reverend you have finally made it to Heaven and are free of all your Mortal pain on Earth. You have been reunited with the Family that went before you and I know that toothy grin of yours is going from ear to ear!

You were a huge Mentor in my life and I will miss you tremendously! Until we meet again!

Mark McLemore

mark mclemore - October 23, 2019 at 07:40 PM

SM

“ *Dick Lauren’s was my second dad while I was growing up. He was always a lot of fun. His daughter Betsy was my best friend. He performed Mark and my wedding ceremony 32 yrs ago. He actually had a book with every wedding he had ever performed. He was a good Christian man. He will be missed*
Susan Mclemore

Susan Mclemore - October 23, 2019 at 04:14 PM

KA

“ *Lisa, sending heart felt condolences and prayers for peace in this time.* 🙏

Katie - October 23, 2019 at 06:05 AM

BE

“ *Reverend Laurens was an extremely loving minister, not only to Greer First Presbyterian congregation, but maybe more so to the many youth of that congregation. He took me and my brother along with his own children and other youth of the church to camps, visits to the beach, conferences, etc. He loved us and continued to teach us no matter how mischievous we might have been from time to time. I will always love the special memories I have of Rev. Laurens and his family.*

Betsy McKinney Porter

BetsyPorter - October 22, 2019 at 10:31 PM

JS

“ *I will never forget the kindness and wisdom of Rev. Laurens. He was a wonderful pastor and family friend.*

Julia Sullivan

Julia Sullivan - October 22, 2019 at 02:36 PM

BH

“ *Mr. Laurens taught me in Communicant class at Greer First Presbyterian Church in 1962. He was my pastor until my family moved to Charlotte in 1964. My deepest sympathy goes out to Rick and the rest of the Laurens family.*

Brant Hart - October 22, 2019 at 01:52 PM