



Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis

June 23, 1935 - June 4, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that the Davis family announces the death of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis, 88, on June 4, 2024. Mrs. Davis was born on June 23, 1935, in Lee County, SC. She was the daughter of the late Coley Lewis Stokes and the late Algie Olivia "Lib" Smith Stokes. She was the oldest of five children.

From a young age, Viva had a true love for learning and she excelled academically, even advancing a school year early. She graduated from Central High School, where she was Valedictorian of her class, and married Eugene Davis that same year in 1953. They had three daughters, Kathi, Tammy and Debbie. Viva often said, "She loved being a mother," and she was actively involved in her children's lives, leading Brownie and Girl Scout Troops and Vacation Bible School. She made birthdays and holidays magical- hand sewing special outfits or costumes for the event and decorating the house beautifully.

After raising her children, Viva purchased the Blossom Shop in 1989. She grew the business successfully and was widely sought for her expertise in weddings. The family has happy memories of helping Viva during holiday seasons in "the shop". Viva sold the business and retired in 2001 to spend time with her children and grandchildren.

Though Viva enjoyed working, her greatest joy was becoming a grandparent. She treasured her time with her grandkids and loved being their “Gan”. She attended their orchestra concerts, soccer games, football games, and dance recitals. Viva believed in making memories over material possessions, and every summer, she took the family to Wild Dunes Resort in Charleston, SC, where they created lifelong memories. Viva was excellent at cooking, sewing, crocheting, and arranging flowers. She lovingly taught many of her grandchildren how to make biscuits, needlework, and how to root hydrangeas.

As an active member of the Garden Club of Bishopville, she had a beautiful garden with hydrangeas, azaleas, pines, fruit, and pecan trees. She enjoyed her membership in the Henry Durant chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and was an active member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

Viva enjoyed exploring the world and learning about different cultures. She often traveled with friends or brought her grandchildren. She visited many countries in Europe, Canada, Alaska, and across the United States.

Viva is survived by her daughters, Kathi Davis Schuitema (Kurt), Debbie Davis Babb (Perrin), Tammy Davis; sister, Virginia Stokes Little; brother, Roger “Dean” Stokes (Terri); grandchildren, David Paul Babb (Margaret), Jeffrey Alan Schuitema (Logan), Katherine Lee Penny (Robert), William Arthur Joseph (Grace), Laura Claire Moshier; great-grandchildren, Margaret Davis Babb, James Alan Schuitema, Katherine Olivia Penny, Amelia Elizabeth Penny, Olivia Eleanor Babb; beloved nieces and nephews, Robyn Beasley, Cayci Banks (Charlie), Zeke Stokes (Troy Cassel). Viva also leaves behind her treasured Dachshund, Fred.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Davis; twin sister, Vera Olivia Stokes; and brother, David Lewis

Stokes.

Viva was an avid reader and, more recently, loved receiving large print books from the South Carolina State Library through the Talking Book Service program. She also cared deeply for the Bishopville community and supported the Serving Hearts program, which cares for a local assisted living community. The family kindly asks that you consider a donation to either program: The Talking Book Program: www.sctalkingbook.org/donate or Serving Hearts, c/o Sandra Snipes, 456 Meadows Lane, Bishopville, SC 29010.

A funeral service to honor her life will be held at 11 o'clock on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Bethlehem United Methodist Church, with The Rev. Denise Seymour officiating. The family will receive friends at a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. A private family burial will be held in Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
115 W. Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010

Reception

JUN 7. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Bethlehem United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
115 W. Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010

Tribute Wall

BE

“ *Bobbie Elmore sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis*



Bobbie Elmore - June 12, 2024 at 11:38 AM

CM

“ *Clara McElveen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis*



Clara McElveen - June 07, 2024 at 01:28 PM

CM

To Viva Davis family, so sorry to hear of the death of your precious love one. May God give each of you comfort, strength and peace in the days ahead. She was a lovely lady and loved by all who knew her.

Clara McElveen - June 07, 2024 at 01:29 PM

SB

“ *David, I'm thinking about you and your family*



Shaun Brown - June 06, 2024 at 04:14 PM

NT

“ Mrs. Davis is probably one of the sweetest women I’ve ever ever known. In selling her house in Bishopville I got to know it real well and I always remember that beautiful smile she always had on her face. She will be missed greatly.

Nancy Ginsberg Thornton - June 06, 2024 at 02:15 PM

AA

“ Archie And Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Archie and Kay Amerson - June 06, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ Viva was such a kind lady that loved her Lord and family so very much cherish your memories for they are numerous my thoughts and prayers are with all of you love carol watts

Carol Watts - June 06, 2024 at 09:00 AM

DH

“ Debbie Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Debbie Hopkins - June 06, 2024 at 06:46 AM

CC

“ So sorry for y'all's loss. Miss Viva was such a sweet lady.

Cheryl O. Cole - June 06, 2024 at 05:22 AM

KO

“ Kathy Godwin Oakley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Kathy Godwin Oakley - June 05, 2024 at 11:00 PM

AM

“ With deep sympathy and loving memories - your mother was so wonderful! I know you girls, and “Fred” will miss her so much. She was such a sweet Girl Scout leader - kind and compassionate. Always encouraging us to do our best. Her three sweet, loving daughters are a legacy of just how wonderful a mother she was. How blessed you girls have been to have Gene and Viva as parents! Her love of Christ shone throughout her journey here. Thinking of you in the days ahead knowing God will comfort you and bring joyous memories of her life.

Ann McCaskill McIlhenny - June 05, 2024 at 10:48 PM

AB

“ Artie Broadway sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Artie Broadway - June 05, 2024 at 09:49 PM

LM

“ *Lena McCutchen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis*



Lena McCutchen - June 05, 2024 at 09:34 PM

AH

“ *Annette Logan Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis*



Annette Logan Hopkins - June 05, 2024 at 08:47 PM

AH

She was such a kind lady and always so pleasant to be around She will be missed by so many friends Love, Prayers and Sympathy to all the family

Annette Logan Hopkins - June 05, 2024 at 08:49 PM

DS

“ *I have so many memories of dear Viva, the special and lasting bond she shared with my mother, Willene, and basically growing up with Kathi and Debbie. Viva and Willene were cut from the same regal cloth, their iron Christian faith shaping everything they did and how they raised their children. I'm sure Viva and Willene greeted each other with tears, warm smiles and a tight embrace when they met yesterday in Heaven. No finer women ever lived and I loved them both. - Derek Smith*

Derek Smith - June 05, 2024 at 08:11 PM

SC

“ *Debbie, Tammy and Kathi, I'm so sorry for your loss. She was such a sweet lady who always had a smile on her face. We will keep you in our prayers.* ”



Susie Chavis - June 05, 2024 at 06:29 PM

NH

“ *Norman And Iris Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis* ”



Norman and Iris Hayes - June 05, 2024 at 05:59 PM

NH

A true southern lady. She will be missed.

Norman and Iris Hayes - June 05, 2024 at 06:00 PM

RH

“ *Rosalie Logan Hyatt lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis* ”



Rosalie Logan Hyatt - June 05, 2024 at 05:31 PM

RH

Mrs. Viva was such a sweet lady! Much love and prayers for her family! She will be missed!

Rosalie Logan Hyatt - June 05, 2024 at 05:33 PM

GE

“ We are so sorry for your loss. She was such a sweet lady. 🙏🙏

Glenda and Robert Ellison - June 05, 2024 at 05:25 PM

FD

“ Fran Latimer Dunn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Fran Latimer Dunn - June 05, 2024 at 05:22 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Stoudenmire lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Rebecca Stoudenmire - June 05, 2024 at 04:47 PM

AJ

“ Alan Kathy Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis



Alan Kathy Jackson - June 05, 2024 at 04:27 PM

MB

“ *Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in
memory of Mrs. Viva Olivia Stokes Davis*



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - June 05, 2024 at 04:25 PM