



Susan Herring

1945 - 2006

Susan S. Herring

Feb 15 1945 - Aug 28 2006

AAFA #0334

Susan S. Herring Hertford native

Susan Stone Herring, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, died on Monday, Aug. 28, 2006, after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. Never one to shy away from a challenge, she faced her illness with a courage, grace and poise that was beyond extraordinary.

Susan was born Feb. 15, 1945, to Nellie Waldo Adams Stone and the late Edward C. Stone Jr. in Durham, N.C. After graduating from Durham High School in 1963, she attended and graduated from East Carolina University in 1967. It was while she was at East Carolina that she met the love of her life, her husband of 39 years, Charles Michael Herring. After their marriage on Sept. 23, 1967, they moved to Elizabeth City to pursue their careers and raise their family.

Upon arriving in Elizabeth City, Susan began teaching in the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County School System. She spent many years in the EMH/ TMI classroom working with handicapped students. Susan then switched to the academically gifted programs in multiple schools in the district. It was in this area that she truly excelled. She was as gifted and talented as the students she so joyously taught. It brought her pleasure to know she touched a student's life and there were many through the years that have told her how much she meant to them. One of her greatest strengths was getting the best out of all students, no matter their abilities. Even if a child was not in her classroom, they knew they could always visit "Mrs. Herring's Room." She had an innate ability to

reach all students that was almost magical. One of her most personally-satisfying professional accomplishments was achieving her National Board Certification in 1998.

After 32 years of dedicated service to the public schools, she retired from teaching kids and began sharing her vast knowledge with teachers around the states of North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. Susan spent five years tirelessly traveling and spreading her love of teaching.

Her work with The Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning allowed her to touch hundreds of teachers and those teachers will continue to share her love of learning with their students for many years to come. Those teachers whose lives she touched will be forever blessed because of their relationship with Susan.

Although Susan dearly loved her professional life, her true center was her family. She was constantly talking about her husband, children and grandchildren to everyone she met. She would go anywhere, anytime to see her son Jon compete in a truck pull or watch her grandchildren, Steven and BethAnne, ride in a horse show. No matter how poorly she may have felt, she was always able to play with her Tater, little Logan. She took immense pride in all her family's accomplishments and will still be rooting for their, among the angels.

Susan is survived by her husband, Mike; her mother, Waldo Stone; her daughter and son-in-law, Michaëlle

and Nicky Overman, their children, Steven, BethAnne and Logan; her son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Shelly Herring, all of Elizabeth City. She is also survived by her brother Frank Stone and his special friend, Wanda Halsey, of Southern Shores, N.C.; sister-in-law, Sybil Stone of Norfolk, Va.; brothers-in-law, Roy and Thelma Herring, Mel and Vivian Herring, both of Whiteville, N.C., Stevie and Jennifer Herring of Santa Maria, Calif.; and sister-in-law, Karen and Ron Bauman of Wisconsin. She also has many nieces and nephews that she dearly loved. She was predeceased by her father, Edward C. Stone Jr.; her brother, Edward C. Stone III; and her nephew, Allen Stone.

A memorial service to celebrate Susan's life will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006, at First United Methodist Church on Road Street in Elizabeth City with the Rev. Charles McKenzie, the Rev. Mike Frese and the Rev. Toni Wood officiating. The family will receive visitors immediately following the service in the Asbury Room of the church and at other times at the home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, 404 Jessup St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

Twiford's Funeral Home, 405 E. Church St., Elizabeth City, is assisting the Herring Family. To sign the online guest register please visit www.twifordfh.com.

A Poem Honoring Susan's Life

Susan: Personal Name, from Hebrew meaning Lily

*With the sun came the flower and with the flower came
the sun.*

Susan bloomed each day with joy and light and fun.

In her smile, shown radiant living; in her eyes, her love of learning.

Susan blossomed like the springtime, each day newness returning.

Laughter came awinking, hiding 'neath her petals.

Happiness came to bud — even in the nettles.

Susan was a lily whose presence brought a smile.

She made the day a sunny one, the living all worthwhile.

*We celebrate her joyous life; we
sorrow at her parting.*

*We know that now in God's great garden
her brand new bloom is starting.*





Susan
As We
Love Her



Typical Susan, Rolling with
(W)reckless Abandon. Tractor
pulls and racing are Susan's son
son's hobbies—Susan in a racer.





SUSAN STONE HERRING

Died on Monday, August 28, 2006

Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, she fought a courageous battle with breast cancer.

"Never one to shy away from a challenge, she faced her illness with a courage, grace and poise that was beyond extraordinary."

Born February 15, 1945 to Nellie Waldo Adams Stone and the late Edward C. Stone, Jr. in Durham, NC

Graduated Durham High School 1963

Graduated East Carolina University 1967

Married Charles Michael Herring September 23, 1967

Taught in the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County School System, first as a teacher of handicapped children and later with academically gifted students

"One of her greatest strengths was getting the best out of all students, no matter their abilities. Even if a child was not in her classroom, they knew they could always visit "Mrs. Herring's Room". She had an innate ability to reach all students that was almost magical."

Achieved National Board Certification in 1998

Retired after 32 years in the classroom

Took up a second career with the Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning working with teachers in NC, VA, and TN

"Those teachers whose lives she touched will be forever blessed because of their relationship with Susan." While working, she constantly spun tales about her husband, her children, and her grandchildren to everyone she met.

Susan is survived by her husband, Mike; her mother, Waldo Stone; her daughter and son-in-law, Michaëlle and Nicky Overman, their children, Steven, BethAnne and Logan; her son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Shelly Herring all of Elizabeth City. She is also survived by her brother Frank Stone and his special friend Wanda Halsey of Southern Shores, NC; sister-in-law Sybil Stone of Norfolk, Va.; brothers-in-law Roy and Thelma Herring, Mel and Vivian Herring both of Whiteville, NC, Stevie and Jennifer Herring of Santa Maria, CA and sister-in-law Karen and Ron Bauman of Wisconsin. She also has many nieces and nephews that she dearly loved. She was predeceased by her father, Edward C. Stone, Jr.; her bother Edward C. Stone III and her nephew Allen Stone.

Memorial service Sunday, September 3, 2006, 3:00 PM

First United Methodist Church on Road St. in Elizabeth City

Rev. Charles McKenzie, Rev. Mike Frese and Rev. Toni Wood officiating.

Family will receive visitors immediately following the service in the Asbury Room of the church and at other times at the home.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, 404 Jessup Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

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Our Friend Susan

To see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wildflower.. hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour..
William Blake

"She took me on one of her famous "Mama Susan" tours that week as we toured the streets of Williamsburg -stopped in at her favorite colonial tavern where we ate in the basement, played with a young couple's baby, and laughed as tears streamed down our faces at its antics - drove through Norfolk, Jamestown, and the Chesapeake Bay areas; and finally stopped on the shores of Virginia Beach where she encouraged me to stick my feet in the ocean and feel the water washing all the "dirt" and pain of my past away. Very few people touch our lives in such a way where we know that their impact on us will live on through us forever. Susan Herring was one of those people in my life where who and what I am for the rest of my life will be impacted by that one moment in time when she stopped, shook my hand, and said, 'Hello. My name is Susan Herring. It's very good to finally meet you.'"

Susan was one of the most courageous, inspiring, effective people I have had the privilege of knowing. She enjoyed life to its fullest and to the last. She revelled in being able to help improve the lives of children as well as helping teachers become more caring and capable. A consummate teacher, she worked through illness; past the time her doctors gave her; and until about her last week. Susan was one of the original QTL (Quality Teaching and Learning) instructors, having helped create the program from scratch. I remember at one conference where she was making a point and to do so jumped up on a chair, took an explorer's stance with her hand over her eyes and looked to the west, while telling a joke that communicated her point.

We as an organization have been privileged and honored to have known and worked with Susan. As individuals, we have been uplifted and inspired. As friends... well, I can only say it would be nice to get just one more hug. So if you see someone today who looks like they could use a hug... give it to them and remember Susan.

I knew that just by meeting this extraordinary woman, my life would be enhanced. Her guiding, knowing, spirit also altered my life in an even greater way that I could have ever imagined. Susan, our match making love angel, knew that Mike and I would be perfect for one another. She told each of us about the other over a year before we ever met. Of course, Susan was absolutely right. My first day on the job gave Susan the opportunity she had been awaiting. Her glow lit the room, when she introduced us and insisted we hug instead of shake hands. She watched with a knowing smile from across the room or from the end of the table as we fell in love that weekend. Mike and I will be married next May. I imagine Susan will be there in some form to wish us well as we begin our lives together in a ceremony that will be dedicated to "Mama Susan": a remarkable woman and exceptional being, who touched an infinite number of lives with her many gifts. Thank you Mama Susan for sharing your life with all of us and being such a great teacher. We have learned so much about life from observing how you lived yours. You will reside in our hearts forever. We love you!

If travel to heaven is in any way analogous to travel on earth, I am certain that Susan Herring will not take the direct route. She never did on earth and she won't on her way into the beyond. I knew Susan from her work in Botetourt County, Virginia. She taught our high school teachers some good instructional strategies in her role as facilitator for our QTL Center before we had our own facilitator. This entailed a regular drive from her home in Elizabeth City, North Carolina to Daleville, Virginia. Many people would have viewed that trip as an onerous task, but she seemed to relish the opportunity of discovery that a five hour trip might offer. There were many roads between the two communities and she never traveled the same one. Her Monday conversation would often include the happy detail of a store, chance encounter or some great insight she had while contemplating unfamiliar terrain. Her object was never to arrive as quickly as possible; the object was to seek the best experience during each period of travel. It may be added, that no route is undesirable when there are no strangers on it. I believe Susan didn't know any strangers. She was very proud of her grandchildren and greatly enjoyed talking about them. She described Logan and BethAnne to me.

She loved her husband very much and went to a great deal of trouble to present him with his new dog... I think it is named Burkler, but I may be confused with the first dog he had. She told me about her father. Two funny stories that I remember. They lived on a farm in Durham. He constantly kept his children busy working on the farm. He woke Susan up in the middle of the night at about the time she was 13 years old. They traipsed off to a pond or lake to go frog gigging. He was always coming up with unusual tasks for his children. One time, he dropped her off in Raleigh and told her to pick crabapples along the road—I think she was about 18 years old. She was picked up by the police and told that she was not allowed to do that. She was not a happy camper.

Once, at Lumberton in the hotel, the desk clerk, Tanisha, called her for advice when she was sick. She loved everyone.

During the last session she taught in Charles City, she made many new friends. We went to Shirley Plantation and she waited in the grass while we toured. Randy Carter, the owner, made a special trip out to speak to her. She was feeling very badly, but she drove to work everyday and taught as well as she ever did to her teachers. She made a special effort to see that I had a pleasant dinner every night, including going into Williamsburg and walking to a restaurant, which she did not feel like doing. She took a personal interest in each of the other instructors at QTL..... I will really miss her....