



Beverly T. Craven, Clerk of Council Emerita for Charleston County, passed away on October 27.

A true Charlestonian and lifelong Charleston resident, Beverly was always interested in government, the law and community issues. After graduating from Bishop England, she managed the Gloria Theatre in downtown Charleston. She attended Rice Business school and worked for a local attorney and then for New York life Insurance Company. During that time, she met and fell in love with her future husband James Craven and they married in 1954. She stopped working after the birth of her first child and raising her family became her top priority. They had 3 daughters, Gayle Craven Hardee (Mike), Terri Craven and Kathy Craven Goeldi (John).

As a young couple, they were very interested in community issues. While her husband pursued a career in law, as a Member of SC House of Representatives, Charleston County Family Court Judge and Lawyer; she was a true partner along every step of the way even working along side him in his law office. During the times she could not work with him she volunteered with local, state and national organizations to help improve the lives of others while promoting women, children and family issues. She was on the Board of the Florence Crittenton Home for Unwed Mothers (1962-1973) – providing services and support for mothers, children and families, National Volunteer Advisor for March of Dimes Representing SC (1974-1983), Founding Member of Palmetto Cabinet (1966- Present) comprised of Legislator's Wives and Former Legislator's Wives, and was appointed by the Governor to represent Charleston as a Member and later Chairperson of SC Commission on the Status of Women (1976-1984).

Following a brief illness, her beloved husband passed away in January 1987. Several months after his untimely death, Mrs. Craven felt that at the age of 53, she still had a lot to give and began to think about the future. While reading the Post and Courier she saw a posting for a job that she thought would be the perfect fit – Clerk of Council for Charleston County Council. Her only reservation was that she had not been on a job interview in over 30 years, much less one where she would be interviewed by 9 people who would be her new bosses.

From November 9, 1987 until August 22, 2017 Beverly Craven served as Clerk of Council for Charleston County Council. Because of her grace, candor and open heart, her role in this job had become much more than an administrative assistant. She had become the heart and soul of Charleston County Council and Charleston County Government – a mentor, leader, listener, counselor and friend. While serving 41 different Council Members, she helped mold local and statewide government officials for a generation with her sage advice and encouraging attitude. She had been a member to SC Clerks to Council since 1987 where she guided new Clerks to Council through the learning curve of running a County Council office. She was a member of SC Association of Counties and was called on by numerous presidents over the years to serve on various steering committees.

During her career with Charleston County, Beverly was very active in the community. She served as a member of the Charleston Community Pride Board – an organization that encourages environmental stewardship in Charleston County, a member of the board of the Lowcountry Senior Citizens Center, a Member of the Charleston Hat Ladies – a service organization, and a member and treasurer of the Tri-County Silver-Haired Legislature – an organization tasked with identifying issues and concerns of the senior population in South Carolina and making recommendations to the General Assembly and the executive branch. Beverly also served as a mentor for medical students at the Medical University of SC for many years. She belonged to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and was a member of the Catholic Women's Club there.

She was the proud grandmother to 5 Grandchildren Kenneth D Shuler, Jr (Niki), Kristy Craven Holdgate (Nick), James Craven Shuler, Hannah Elizabeth Goeldi and Matthew Hunter Goeldi who she adored and spent lots of time with individually and together and 3 Wonderful Great Grands, Abigail Elizabeth Holdgate, Camden Arthur Shuler and William Emory Holdgate.

County Council and the community honored her in so many ways with numerous resolutions and awards over the years and right before her retirement; council, state and community leaders contacted the Governor and requested she be honored with the Order of the Silver Crescent which was presented to her at her retirement party on August 22, 2017.

Arrangements by James A. McAlister Funeral Home.