



## Brooke Norris Sykes Sr

May 11, 1934 - January 1, 2023

NOTE: FOR ZOOM LINK TO SERVICE, PLEASE SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM.

"A Salesman"

Together Again.

January 1, 2023. We lost a legend. Brooke Norris Sykes Sr, 88, joined his wife Barbara. One can only imagine how precious the heavenly reunion between Brooke and Barbara was when he passed. They had 70 earthly years together and created quite the family. Just 6 months after she passed, they are back together again.

Brooke was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on May 11, 1934, the son of William and Villa Norris Sykes. In 1939, his family moved to Cranston. As a Master Counselor for DeMolay International Rhode Island, an organization of Masons, he met Ms. Barbara Haigh, an organist in the Rainbow Girls, an organization of the Eastern Star. In 1956, they were married. Together, they raised five kids on a small income, in a small house, but boy did they have a big life!

A graduate of the prestigious Brown & Sharpe Tool and Die Apprenticeship

Program, Brooke sold Brown & Sharpe small measuring tools all throughout New England. He flourished and thrived in sales. Brooke was promoted to sell and pioneer Brown & Sharpe's "brand new product" called the Coordinate Measuring Machine in the Southeast so they moved to Charlotte NC from Rhode Island. He opened Brown & Sharpe's first technical center in Charlotte NC and grew it to become the highest market share CMM brand in his territory. As he grew closer to retirement, B&S decided to try to spread his talents through-out their sales teams by appointing Brooke as head of employee sales training.

Vacationing to Brooke was packing up the family station wagon with the tent, camping ware, 5 kids, dog, and camping for 1 or 2 weeks in the New Hampshire or Vermont mountains. Brooke helped coach the baseball team, was a Boy Scout Leader, and was always involved in the lives of his children to the max degree that he could. Self-worth and self-reliance were the most important teachings, all the while emphasizing treating people with care and respect. Family was vital, but most importantly, you were always going to have fun and laugh!

Brooke was one of a kind. He was a talker—you could have an hour long phone call (that was short) and probably only get a few words in. He could be so stinkin' grumpy but would usually end a rant with, "I'll shut up now" and a smile. He taught us to blow the straw paper at the dinner table and always stuck his dentures out to make us laugh. He carried a keychain that said "mean people suck." He named his colostomy bag "Frank" and was quite the jokester with it. He never met a stranger and was sure to show anyone and everyone the pictures he carried in his wallet from when he and Barbara first met. A true romantic, he could cuss like a sailor but made sure you knew he loved Jesus. His smirk, his finger point, his kisses and his hugs. He'll be missed so much. But as he taught us—it's not goodbye, it's see ya later!

Brooke is survived by four children: Cheryl (husband Jerry) Thurman of Olon, Ecuador, Diane (husband Clay) Alexander of Rock Hill, SC, Brooke (wife Gail) Sykes Jr of Columbia, TN, Brenda (husband Mark) True of Charlotte, NC; brother, William "Bill" H. Sykes of Algonac, MI; sister Harriet Sykes-Keuter; grandchildren Dale, Brooke Ann, Jesse, Katie, Brooke, Rachel, Charlie, Shelby, Brandon, Alex and Kyle; and 10 great grandchildren. Brooke is further survived by numerous other family and friends as well as his church family at Morning Star Lutheran Church. In addition to his wife, Barbara, Brooke was preceded in death by his parents; a son, David; a brother, Roger; and numerous four legged canine friends.

Brooke's family has given the family of Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home the privilege of caring for him and for them.

The Sykes family will receive friends beginning at 2 pm on Saturday, Jan 21, at Morningstar Lutheran Church. A celebration of life service will then follow at 3 pm in the main worship center. Immediately following the service, Brooke will be then be entombed in the Morningstar Lutheran Church Columbarium located in the cemetery across the street.

In lieu of flowers, the family thinks donations are for the birds. They would appreciate it if you would sponsor a bird in Brooke's name at Parrot Mountain Gardens. The website will ask that you send a check. PLEASE NOTE ON THE CHECK THAT THE DONATION IS IN MEMORY OF BROOKE. That way, Parrot Mountain can keep the family informed of donations in his name. Here is the link to the page [http://www.parrotmountainandgardens.com/?page\\_id=85](http://www.parrotmountainandgardens.com/?page_id=85)

The mailing address is - Parrot Mountain Gardens, 1471 McCarter Hollow Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862-7248

Michael John Neddo OF Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Brooke Sykes Visitation and Service

Time: Jan 21, 2023 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82174608454?pwd=NEY2dHhhSGxlcmM4LzAxamJkYVZldz09>

Meeting ID: 821 7460 8454

Passcode: 999783

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,82174608454#,,,,\*999783# US

+13126266799,,82174608454#,,,,\*999783# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



# Cemetery Details

## Morningstar Lutheran Church Cemetery

12900 Idlewild Road  
Matthews, NC 28105

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends and Family

JAN 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Morning Star Lutheran Church  
12509 Idlewild Road  
Matthews, NC 28105

## Celebration of Life Service

JAN 21. 3:00 PM (ET)

Morning Star Lutheran Church  
12509 Idlewild Road  
Matthews, NC 28105

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brooke Norris Sykes Sr*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brooke Norris Sykes Sr.*



January 21, 2023 at 02:38 PM

BT

“Where do I start. My Dad was a great father. He worked so hard so that we could have whatever we needed. Sitting here there are so many memories that come to me.

*I remember Dad taking me around with him when I was a little girl and he was so proud and would introduce me to his friends and anyone else we came in contact with. He would always hold my hand wherever we went. He kept that up during my teenage years when it got to be a little embarrassing. Teenager's just aren't really into holding their parents hands. HaHa. He always liked to hold hands. Now, I really miss it.*

*I remember he and Mom packing us all up in the station wagon in our pajamas and pillows and going to the Drive In movie. We also had so much fun camping in a tent and then later in a pop up camper. Can you imagine a family of 7 in a small pop up camper? And who can forget the bumpy road. It was a road on the way back from Nana and Grandpa's that had great hills. We would always tell him to go that way so that he could go fast and we would raise up out of our seats. Nope, no seatbelts back then. And we still survived.*

*Another fond memory as a little girl is Dad dancing with me with my feet on his feet. I guess you would say that he was my first dance partner.*

*Mom and Dad both were so good about listening and helping us with our problems but Dad was always the one that I went to with any boy trouble. He would always give me the boys point of view and give great advice.*

*I will miss the many phone calls and visits to their house for dinner. We would always laugh and have so much fun. I will especially miss the many hugs and I love you's.*

*Mom and Dad, Thank you so much for being such great loving parents. I will miss you so much until I see you again. As you always said "see you later"*

*Love you so much, Brenda XOXO*

---

**Brenda True** - January 20, 2023 at 07:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brooke Norris Sykes Sr.



January 19, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Brooke Norris Sykes Sr.



January 17, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ Brooke was like a dad to me & Barbara treated me as her own! They even met me for lunch 2-3 times each year, just to make sure I was safe and behaving! Brooke called me his “girl Friday” or his personal stenographer, which of course I was neither lol! I learned so much from him and even today I still use his “salesman” techniques, then smile remembering where I learned it! He once said that nothing could get through me to him, not even the Pope himself! Family always protects each other! Those long “short stories” we all loved to hear I hold dear & will cherish forever! Fly high my civil war expert, my former boss dad, & my friend! Give Barbara a kiss for me!

Candy Smith - January 12, 2023 at 11:41 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Brooke Norris Sykes Sr.*



---

January 11, 2023 at 09:15 AM



“ *What a great obituary! I didn't know your mom and dad were Masons. My mom and her mother and father were also. I remember being part of the Rainbow Girls. I love that your parents met way back then. Brooke and Barbara were wonderful people. I'm glad to have such great memories of them. I know you are, too, Much love.*

---

**Jessica Moss Howells** - January 08, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *Brooke was a mentor, friend and inspiration to me and many others who had the great privilege of working and playing with him over the years. Reading his obituary brought tears of joy to my eyes. He was definitely one of the good guys. Love you Brooke.*

---

**Joe Mason** - January 07, 2023 at 01:42 PM

RS

*Brook was a one of a kind, just loved to talk. Barbara was a very sweet beautiful quiet, nice girl. My father ( Ralph Sykes Sr.) a tool and die maker, saw that young Brook loved to talk and knew how to talk to anyone and was very good at it. So my father suggested to Brook to do a apprenticeship at Brown and Sharp, witch he did and turned out to be his life's job. He was probably one of best salesman ever. Every time he came to Rhode Island he would always come see my parents and take them out to eat. Barbara ( the love of his life) did a amazing job bringing up the children while Brook had to travel the world. He always told me he never missed a night with out calling Barbara. I love them both and family very much. I have spent Many Many Many hours taking to my cousin Brook over the years, I will miss them both. LOVE Cousin Ralph and family from Rhode Island*

---

**ralph sykes** - January 13, 2023 at 05:20 PM