



## Jacqueline B. McElrath

August 11, 1941 - February 14, 2024

Jacqueline “Jackie” B. McElrath was born Jacqueline Elizabeth Birkes on August 11, 1941, in Roanoke, Virginia. Jackie embodied a life rich in love, devotion, and accomplishment that, unquestionably, left an indelible mark on those she encountered.

As the eldest of two children to Richard Henry and Edna Marion Birkes, Jackie's roots were firmly planted in Roanoke, where she received her education, from elementary to high school, in the nurturing environment of Roanoke Catholic Schools. Following her graduation, Jackie embarked on a southern adventure to Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. It was during this time that destiny intervened, leading her to Charlotte, North Carolina, where she commenced her career in Special Education for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS).

In the Queen City, Jackie not only found professional fulfillment, but also discovered a ‘King’ and lifelong companion in Richard Allen McElrath, Sr., a fellow educator. Their union in 1966 marked the beginning of a 53-year journey as partners in love and life. Jackie and Richard built their home in Charlotte and were blessed with two children, Richard Allen, Jr., and Lori. Despite the demands of being a devoted wife, mother, and teacher, Jackie pursued her educational aspirations, culminating in the attainment of a Masters in Education from Winthrop University. Following this achievement, Jackie briefly stepped away from the classroom to work as an Observer for

CMS. In the late 1990s, she retired from CMS but continued her passion for education by dedicating over a decade to the Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools, serving as a Special Education teacher at St. Gabriel's Catholic School.

Throughout her life, Jackie remained deeply rooted in her Catholic faith. Her spiritual journey began at St. Gerard's Catholic Church in Roanoke, where she was baptized as a child. Upon making Charlotte her home, Jackie became an active member of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, finding joy in participating in the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir, sharing Christ's message through the power of music.

Jackie's interests were as diverse as her talents. Beyond her dedication to education and faith, she found joy in fashion, interior decorating, exploring new destinations, culinary arts, literature, comedy, and the art of nail polish. She was a firm advocate for good manners, correct grammar, and punctuality, embodying a timeless elegance that left a lasting impression on those around her. In honoring Jackie's memory, may we reflect on the beauty she brought to our lives and the legacy of love and learning she leaves behind.

Jackie is survived by her son Richard Allen McElrath, Jr.; daughter Lori McElrath; granddaughter Jada McElrath; grandson Reshard McElrath (Quamisha McElrath); great-grandson Zaid McElrath; brother Fred Birkes; niece Angela Birkes; niece Denitra Birkes; grand-nephew Joshua Clemons; grand-niece Zy'anah Marion-Elizabeth Birkes; grand-niece Aniah Jade Cole. She was predeceased by her husband Richard Allen McElrath, Sr.; cousin George Gainer; cousin Gaylord Lorton; and cousin Carlyle Hale.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **23**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Consolation Parish Life Center  
1235 Badger Court  
Charlotte, NC 28206

## Funeral Mass

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Consolation Parish Life Center  
1235 Badger Court  
Charlotte, NC 28206

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *May the Lord overflow your heart with peace and lovingkindness in the days, weeks, months ahead. peace be unto and upon you forevermore. Know that you do not walk alone, I Deb your neighbor is here for you. Love you Lori and Jada and Rick*

---

**Deb Bridges** - March 07, 2024 at 06:06 PM

DB

“ *Deb Bridges lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline McElrath*



---

**Deb Bridges** - March 07, 2024 at 06:01 PM

DE

*May the love and light of God's presence surround you during this difficult time.”*

*“Our loved one may have left this world, but they will always be present in our hearts, memories, and in God's love.” Lori Rick Jada peace shalom be unto upon you forevermore Love Deb neighbor and Lady Mc and Mr Mc was my next door Earth angels*

---

**deb** - March 24, 2024 at 12:30 AM

DB

“ *A wonderful neighbor*



---

**Deb Bridges** - March 07, 2024 at 04:38 AM

DB

“ *Deb Bridges lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline McElrath*



---

**Deb Bridges** - March 06, 2024 at 08:29 PM

DB

“ *May the fond memories of your loved one bring you solace and peace. Wishing you strength and peace during this time of grief. "I was so blessed to have an angel next door like Momma Mc." With deepest sympathy, I am here for you if you need anything." R.I.P Peace Shalom Deb Bridges*

---

**Deb Bridges** - March 06, 2024 at 06:31 PM

DB

“ *Deb Bridges lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline McElrath*



---

**Deb Bridges** - March 06, 2024 at 06:10 PM

GF

“ *George Franks and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jacqueline B. McElrath.*



---

**George Franks and Family** - February 23, 2024 at 09:41 AM

JR

“ *Very sorry for your loss she was a great mom and grandmother and neighbor from plumstead road*



---

**jerielyn richardson** - February 22, 2024 at 01:59 PM

LM

“ *Dearest Jackie*

*We been best friends since we was 6 years old. Thats is a lifetime almost of pure friendship. I'm so thankful for our last conversation after Christmas last year. You certainly will be missed.*

*Forever & Always*

*Your best friend.*

*Louise* □



---

**Louise Monroe** - February 20, 2024 at 07:35 PM

LM

“ *Louise Monroe lit a candle in memory of Jacqueline McElrath*



---

**Louise Monroe** - February 20, 2024 at 07:18 PM