



## Dot Sutton

October 30, 1931 - February 2, 2019

Dorothy Brigman Sutton

The daughter of farmers she was born near Rowland, NC October 30, 1931.

As a teenager she was well known locally for singing in the church and her interest in music. She was often asked to sing for funerals and since her family didn't own a car people would drive out from town to pick her up and bring her back.

After graduation from Rowland High School she attended Meredith College which at the time was still an all-women's school. While at Meredith, Dot enjoyed singing in the Meredith Choir as well as being a paid soloist and singer at the First Baptist Church of Raleigh.

As graduation from Meredith neared she began looking for a job as a public school music teacher. One of her interviews was with Mr. EM Yoder who convinced her that Mebane was the right place. Upon graduation she moved into the Teacherage in Mebane where she made lifelong friendships with other new teachers and eventually met her future husband, Bill Sutton.

She taught in the public schools of Alamance County until her retirement. Her career as a teacher was distinguished by her time at Eastern High School where she was the director of the choral program. She directed Choral groups and produced many musicals and variety shows. She built a program that became well known for its excellence. Her choirs consistently earned Superior Ratings in state competitions as well as earning First Place in National competitions. Her program introduced travel as part of the musical curriculum and with help from her husband Bill, she led students on annual trips around the world, an opportunity that many of her students may not have had otherwise. The trips included performances at venues from Carnegie Hall in New York City to the Cathedrals of Europe and the American Embassy in Paris, France.

In addition to her teaching work she also was Director of Music at the First Baptist Church of Mebane as well as Interim Director of Music at several other local churches.

When retired she was instrumental in the resurrection of the Mebane Community Choir in its annual performance of Handel's Messiah, (directing the choir herself in the beginning years.)

Her last Choir work, at 85, was directing the Twin Lakes Community Choir in Burlington;

an assignment which she loved as she worked with other people in retirement to continue developing their love for voice and music.

Her greatest role was as matriarch to her family. She was a loving and supportive wife to Bill Sutton Sr, and mother to Bill Jr, Bob, Betsy and Ann, mother in-law to Kim, Janie and Craig and grandmother to Katherine, Rebecca and Alexandra. We will always remember the laughter and love of a happy home. Dot Sutton will be remembered for her zest for life and the love she had for others. Thank you God for the Blessing of Dot Sutton.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the Mebane Community Choir c/o Mebane Presbyterian Church, 402 South Fifth Street Mebane, NC 27302 or the Meredith College Class of 1953 Scholarship Fund c/o Erin Cleghorn Director, The Meredith Fund 919-760-8060

The funeral service will be conducted at 1:00 pm on Wednesday February 6, 2019 at the First Baptist Church of Mebane, located at 301 S Third Street.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Tuesday February 5, 2019 at Walker's Funeral Home and Crematory of Mebane, located at 304 W. Center Street.

Online guest register available at [www.walkersfuneralhomemebane.com](http://www.walkersfuneralhomemebane.com)

Walker's Funeral Home and Crematory of Mebane is handling the arrangements for Mrs. Dot B. Sutton

# Comments

---



“ Mrs. Sutton will always stand in my mind as the greatest teacher ever! She was kind, and sweet. She was compassionate with her love of music. To this very day, when I sing, I remember to stand tall, breath deep, and be gentle with the words. She taught music, but thru the music she taught Life lessons. Love and Prayers to the Sutton family.

**Dianne Hall Andrews** - February 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I was privileged to be in the Twin Lakes Choir when Dot was our director. She was a totally wonderful director, and I lived for Thursdays! I sang today in the extended choir at Dot's service and was particularly moved by the words to Remember My Song. Please know that you all have my deepest sympathy and that I share in your grief over a life beautifully lived.

My love to you all,  
Betsey Aldrich

**Betsey Aldrich (Twin Lakes Community Choir)** - February 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ My heartfelt condolences to all of you. Your mother had fire in her soul and having her at Twin Lakes as director of our choir was a joy and gift. She expected the same effort from seniors as from youth, and the results showed. I am grateful to have known and worked with her!

**Father Mark Menees** - February 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Mrs. Sutton, I'm thinking of you in my thoughts and prayers. I'm one of the sub at Grady Brown school.

**Rosa Johnson** - February 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To all the Sutton family. My heartfelt condolences. I have such fond memories of the musicals your Mom led us in back in the 70s at Eastern. She was a very special teacher.  
Gary

**Gary Norris** - February 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ The Rembert family send condolences to all of Dot's Family and Friends. Even though we can not be with you for the services, we will be with you in spirit.

Judy

**Judy Rembert** - February 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Ann and family,

We are so sorry for your loss! Your mom lived an amazing life and was so lucky to have you all in her life. Sending love and light in during this time of grief.

Pam and Steve

**Pam Rhode** - February 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Your mom touched many hearts and she touched mine in ways I will never forget. I remember one time riding back from a visit to Dillon, Dot in the back seat with her teenage girls beside her, snuggling and teasing and being silly over the long ride, with teenagers who were just as silly as their mom, no less. I remember the affection between the three and thinking, I want to be a mother like that if I ever have kids. I remember going to see a high school performance of a musical and being impressed with her control and management of the whole production and the kids. I remember Bill Sr. being so proud of her that night and seeing that, too, on other occasions when he talked about her music tours for the kids and how they worked together on that. I remember Dot and Bill Sr celebrating their 25th anniversary and burning the mortgage. Now I understand what a joyful event that was to celebrate with their family. I remember how proud Dot was of her boys. And always I remember her smile and twinkle and spirit and positive perspective. It was great to see Dot active with her community chorales - I saw her lined up to go in with the group in the back hall of an auditorium in Chapel Hill just a couple of years ago. She was so tiny in her robe, even with heels, but such a giant in spirit. How blessed she was with music and love and family and how blessed I feel to have loved her. Love to all of the Suttons. from Rebecca

**Rebecca** - February 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

---



“ You are in our thoughts and prayers always but especially during this difficult time.

**Charles and Melinda Alvarez** - February 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ "A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence."  
— Leopold Stokowski ... in your passing the silence is so defeaning ... may I soon  
discover a music to still it ... rursus maiora canamus ...

**Larry Vellani** - February 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM