

## OBITUARIES

### MARY ALICE BLAIR

**NEWBERRY** — Graveside services for Mary Alice Wicker Blair, 86, of Columbia will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2014, at Salem Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Blair, where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. The Reverend Richard Hodges will officiate. Following the service, the family will receive friends in the fellowship hall of the church.

Mrs. Blair died on Monday, December 30, 2013. Daughter of the late Laurence Pope Wicker and Alice Holman Jennings Wicker, she was born on October 12, 1927, in Newberry. She graduated from Newberry High School and attended Newberry College. A member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1954, she enjoyed meeting with the Richard Winn Chapter in Jenkinsville. She also loved crocheting, reading, and playing solitaire.

On December 27, 1946, she married the late Robert Coleman Blair, her husband of 57 years. At the age of 20, Mrs. Blair traveled with the couple's first son to join her husband in Vienna, Austria, where he was then a first lieutenant in the Army. After two years in Vienna, the family lived in many of the United States as Robert progressed through his Army career: Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Kansas, Washington, Alaska, and Kentucky. After nearly 20 years, they were able to settle in Columbia and buy their first home which the family still calls the "home place."

Mrs. Blair is survived by her four children, Robert

Coleman Blair, Jr. of Blair; John Edward Blair of McLean, Va.; James Lynn Blair of Atlanta, Ga.; and Katherine Anne Blair Weaver of Emporia, Kan.. Also surviving are all of her ten grandchildren, Beverly Wylie Blair Parham, Alison Blythe Blair, John Edward Blair Jr., Ashley Elizabeth Blair, Lauren Elise Blair, Margaret Ann Blair, Merriam Coleman Weaver, Andrew Robert Weaver, Katherine Tenney Weaver, and Janet Blair Weaver; and four great-grandchildren, Beverly McKenzie Whitesides, Douglas Coleman Whitesides, John "Jack" Edward Blair III, and Caroline Gray Blair.

She was predeceased by her two brothers, Laurence Pope Wicker, Jr., and William Jennings Wicker.

The family expresses appreciation to all the employees of J. F. Hawkins Nursing Home for the wonderful attention given to Mrs. Blair; and also to Shannon Dale, Dr. Michael Bernardo, and others who have been of service. They all helped to keep up the cheerful outlook that she was known to have.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Coleman Feaster Mobley Family Association, 167 Rutledge Rd., Greenwood, SC 29649; to Salem Presbyterian Church, 276 State Hwy. 215 N, Blair, SC 29015; or to a charity of one's choice.

Pope Funeral Home of Winnsboro is serving the Blair family.

Online condolences may be sent to the Blair family at [www.popefuneralhomesc.com](http://www.popefuneralhomesc.com).

WARD SNOWDEN SENDS  
CONGRATULATIONS...

AND THIS FLASH DRIVE  
CONTAINING DATA THE NSA  
COLLECTED ON THE  
VATICAN.



## Year's resolution

In November, the Philippines' lead negotiator to the UN Climate Summit in Warsaw tearfully begged the assembled governments to take action on climate change, one week after the strongest typhoon ever to make landfall

wiped out a huge swath of his home country.

In 2014, despite the lack of action by Congress, we can all take up his challenge.

Andrew Korfhage is Green America's online and special projects editor. GreenAmerica.org Distributed via OtherWords (OtherWords.org)

## Letters to the Editor

The Herald Independent encourages and welcomes letters