

Martha Earnhardt

Full Name: Martha Coleman Earnhardt

Hometown: Concord, N.C.

Birth date: July 15, 1930

Resides: Kannapolis, N.C.

Martha King Coleman was born on July 15, 1930 in Concord, N.C. to William and Cora Coleman. She was born into a family of 12 children. She was the youngest of eight sisters and four brothers. At the age of 17, Martha married Ralph Lee Earnhardt on August 23, 1947. Over the next seven years, they welcomed five children into their family, Kaye, Cathy, Dale, Randy, and Danny.

Martha and Ralph celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on August 23, 1973 and he died one month later on September 26, 1973. Before Ralph died there were three grandchildren. Following Ralph's death, eight more grandchildren were born for a total of 11 grandchildren. Martha now enjoys a large family consisting of 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, with three more on the way. The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have helped fill Martha's life after losing Ralph so young.

Martha spent most of her time at home raising her growing family. Ralph started racing when their oldest daughter, Kaye, was about six months old and worked in a shop in the back yard of their home. Out of that shop he successfully raised and fed five children and Martha never had to work, except at home. He was a very successful businessman and race car driver. He expected three meals a day and it was very clear that you were expected to be at those meals on time. Martha made sure to feed her family with a full course meal that included biscuits and gravy to compliment every meal. Family gatherings were very important to this family.

Ralph was a very good money manager and always seemed to have what was needed to feed and clothe this family of seven. Martha was, and still is, a very good cook and managed to make the most of meager beginnings. Ralph was an avid hunter and wild game was prepared at their house on a regular basis. Most of the recipes Martha used or learned were from her upbringing and from Ralph's mother Effie. Martha always made sure to have enough food for any extra guests or friends.

Martha is an active member of Memorial Baptist Church in Kannapolis, N.C. and has a busy life keeping up with her family, friends, and church fellowship. She has buried a mother, father, five sisters, and husband and had to endure losing her son, Dale, in a most public experience. Martha continues to have very close relationships with her surviving brothers and sisters. Her faith and upbringing has carried her through many trials, tribulations and happiness.