



Loleta Wallace Short

June 29, 1939 - May 7, 2026

Loleta Wallace Short, 86, of Gretna, died Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Runk & Pratt Pearls of Life in Lynchburg. She was the wife of the late Ray Morris Short.

She was born June 29, 1939, in Roanoke, a daughter of the late John Henry Wallace and Ruth Elizabeth Keckler Wallace. Loleta was a faithful member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Lynchburg and belonged to the Women of the Moose Chapter in Altavista and was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She graduated from Jefferson High School and Radford University. Loleta enjoyed fishing and sewing and devoted many years to education before retiring from Campbell County Public Schools as a teacher.

She is survived by one son, Jeff Short of Myrtle Beach, SC; two sisters, Wanda Hancock and her husband, Richard, of Roanoke, and Norma Wallace Christiansen of Orlando, FL; and nieces and nephews, Kim Hammond, Tim Wolf, Blake Wolfe, Blair Wolfe, Eric Hancock, and Jim Hancock.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2026, at Finch & Finch Chapel, Altavista, by former Army Chaplain, Jeffrey Plum, with inurnment to follow at Green Lawn Cemetery in Hurt.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral

home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to one's favorite charity or church.

Cemetery Details

Green Lawn Cemetery

810 Country Club Road
Hurt, VA 24563

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Memorial Service

MAY 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Billy & Diane Davis lit a candle in memory of Loleta Short*



Billy & Diane Davis - 6 hours ago

PH

“ *Mrs. Short was my favorite teacher in high school! All the guys were google-eyed over her because of those pencil shirts and high heels! All that's aside, she truly was a great teacher that cared about her students and wanted all of us to do well. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Phyllis - 10 hours ago

HM

“ *Mrs Short was my typing & shorthand teacher at AHS. She was my favorite teacher. She was not only an inspiration in my education but in her beauty. She was so pretty...her makeup, her clothes & always dangling earrings. My thoughts & prayers are with the family.*

Hilda Moore Morcom '69

Hilda Morcom - Yesterday at 09:18 PM

BG

“ My prayers go out to Loleta's family. "Mrs. Short" was my typing and shorthand teacher and paved the way for my first summer job as a legal secretary and on into my banking career. She was an excellent teacher and a charming person. I knew her in my adult life as well and she was always so gracious and the same as in high school. She will surely be missed ! Thanks for the memories!



Betty Gillespie - Yesterday at 12:58 PM

CB

“ Loleta and I were neighbors. We shared walks, talks, riding on the pontoon boat, and a few glasses of wine. I enjoyed her company. Very sweet lady! RIP



Carolyn Betterton - Yesterday at 08:11 AM

DD

“ Mrs. Short was my teacher for typing and shorthand, she was an excellent teacher as well as a caring and well loved person. She changed the course of a lot of us in our careers as well as our personal lives. This lady was beautiful inside and out. Deepest sympathy to her family .



Debbie sue Reynolds Doss - Yesterday at 07:37 AM

PV

“ *Paul VanKerckhove lit a candle in memory of Loleta Short*



Paul VanKerckhove - May 10 at 03:06 PM

MD

“ *I am so sorry to see this...Lolita & I have been friends for many years. She was such a caring, loving, and enjoyable person. From good times at the Marina. Through our WOTM days, our visits & cruising the lake with her, and Ray, these memories are a precious keepsake. Memories outlive the moments of sadness, and love transcends loss. My friend, may you rest in eternal Peace. With Sympathy, & Love, Martha Doss*



Martha Doss - May 10 at 01:30 PM

CM

“ *Mrs. Shortt was my favorite teacher in school when I was high school I suffered severe depression and she was so supportive to me and she didn't know but there was many times she saved my life just by being there for me. She was a wonderful person with a beautiful soul and will be greatly missed. I am truly sorry for your loss. You're in my thoughts and prayers.*

Carrie McFaden - May 10 at 06:57 AM

DL

“ I am a member of the Class of 1984 at AHS. Mrs. Short was my business teacher and in my senior year she recommended me for a temporary, part-time job at Abbott HPD. Little did we know, that Mrs. Short would be responsible for my life long career. I remained at Abbott for 41 years and have been retired for nearly two years. Mrs. Short played such an important role in my life and for that I am so very thankful! To her family and friends, you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
God bless you!

Donna Coffey Lanier - May 09 at 10:35 PM



Lolita was my teach for several business classes in Altavista High School. She not only prepared me for my future career, but also positioned me to learn all aspects of office management at English Construction in my Jr & Sr years at AHS. She was my favorite teacher and inspired me to pursue whatever goals I set; she was my mentor and my friend.
God Bless her Family and I pray for their Peace & Comfort during this time of loss.

Betty Shelton - Yesterday at 11:35 AM

DL

“ Donna Coffey Lanier lit a candle in memory of
Loleta Wallace Short



Donna Coffey Lanier - May 09 at 10:28 PM

ME

“ So sorry to hear. She was my typing teacher at Altavista High School. We also were buddies when we went to the Moose Lodge to the dances. She was such a nice person .RIP Loleta.



Mary Edmonds - May 09 at 09:41 PM

PP

“ So sorry to hear this. She was an inspiration to me in height school. Had her for typing and shorthand. Was a great teacher. My thought and prayers go out to the family in this time of sorrow. 🙏🙏

Pat Puckette - May 09 at 09:26 PM

TM

“ So sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful teacher. I enjoyed having her when I was in high school.

Tina Mcfadden - May 09 at 09:15 PM

DS

“ What a great teacher! Taught me how to type which helped me with my first job as a legal secretary!

Deborah Shelton - May 09 at 07:44 PM

SD

“ Scott Davis lit a candle in memory of Loleta Wallace Short



Scott Davis - May 09 at 07:20 PM

RD

“ Rhonda DeVercelly lit a candle in memory of
Loleta Wallace Short



Rhonda DeVercelly - May 09 at 07:08 PM

EP

“ Eddie Puckette lit a candle in memory of
Loleta Wallace Short



Eddie Puckette - May 09 at 07:01 PM

LH

“ She was a wonderful teacher & she inspired me to do well in her
business classes. She was a big influence in my high school
working life & that made me do well after graduation. Thank you
Mrs. Short for being a great teacher & a caring leader.

Leann Reynolds Hendricks - May 09 at 06:32 PM

VC

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Lolita. She
taught me typing and shorthand at Altavista
High School. She was Miss Wallace first then
married Ray Short. I loved her. Sending
thoughts and prayers to the family.



Vicky Creasy - May 09 at 06:01 PM

PK

“ I had Mrs. Short for many classes in high school. I loved her as a teacher and friend. I also knew she loved to sew because if she needed thread or a zipper or anything to finish a project that night she would send me and my closest friend to Leggett to get them. Of course we had an official note from her....and our leaving was official business. It did not affect our grades as we were hard workers too as we would never want to disappoint her. She was a wonderful woman who was loved by so many people. My prayers are with you all. Pam Clark Knight

Pamela Knight - May 09 at 05:52 PM

JR

“ Mrs. Short was my office technology teacher at Altavista High School in 1984 through 1986. She taught me so much about working in an office. She showed me skills I still use at work today. Think of her often and am blessed to have known her. So sorry for the family's loss of a truly memorable lady. Prayers for all.



Jodi Robertson - May 09 at 05:36 PM

LM

“ Loleta was a wonderful teacher and friend. I remember her beautiful smile and encouragement to many students. My prayers for her family and the many memories of her past. She will live on in the hearts of so many who knew her and loved her. 🙏🙏 God bless all.

Lucy Marshall - May 09 at 04:50 PM

KC

“ *I'm sorry for your loss. Loleta was the best teacher that I ever had. She was so caring and always had time for you. I always appreciated and admired her so much. My sincere condolences to the family.* ”



Kay and Ray Caldwell - May 09 at 04:02 PM