



Elmer Lee Hayes, Jr.

June 11, 1928 - May 11, 2021

Elmer Lee Hayes, Jr., age 92, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by loved ones, on May 11, 2021. He was born in Huntington, W.V., on June 11, 1928, to the late Elmer and Anna (Wilson) Hayes. Mr. Hayes was a graduate of Huntington East High School and married Jean Galloway before enlisting in the Navy. He fought in the Korean War aboard the USS New Jersey. After four years of service he came home to work at The Herald-Dispatch as a linotype operator. He later graduated from Marshall University with a M.A. in Education. He was principal of Simms Elementary School and then Spring Hill Elementary School until retirement. He was a lifelong member of the YMCA. He enjoyed officiating basketball and did so in Huntington and later in Nashville, TN. He officiated his last game at the age of 91. As a team member representing West Virginia, he competed in basketball in the National Senior Olympics, winning the gold medal. He enjoyed traveling to all 50 State Capitals and all Presidential Birthplaces and Libraries. Along with Jean, he was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include two daughters, Myra (and husband, Mike) Bowling, and Ann (and husband, Doug) Booton; and two sons, Craig (and wife, Kay) Hayes, and David (and wife, Cindy) Hayes; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a dear friend, Sally Walker. There will be a private graveside military service. Arrangements will be made by Chapman's Mortuary. Online Condolences may be sent to <http://www.chapmans-mortuary.com>.

Cemetery

White Chapel Memorial Gardens

3547 Rt 60

Barboursville, WV, 25504

Comments



“ Mr. Hayes,
Simms Elementary School cannot be mentioned by me without you in the conversation.

Cheryl Waiters Crawford - May 22 at 07:20 PM



“ Mr. Hayes was my first principal in Cabell County when I was a young teacher. He was an excellent administrator and taught me a lot. He had an amazing work ethic and had high expectations for his staff and students. After he retired he always sent me an annual Christmas card. He was the beginning of the heart and soul of Spring Hill Elementary that still exists today. Rest in Peace Elmer, you touched a lot of lives in a positive manner.

Karen Fox Veazey - May 21 at 10:06 AM



“ Our family has many fond memories of Elmer. Elmer always mowed the grass when he came to Bel Air. He loved to sit in Rob & Allison's backyard & sunbathe. We loved having Elmer & GranSally here on Basil Court for our summer parties. My dad loved talking with Elmer....we all loved talking with Elmer. We love you Elmer & will miss you. Rest In Peace

Jennifer Osik - May 17 at 02:05 PM



“ Fond memories of Elmer and the time we worked at the Herald Dispatch newspaper. Remember his laughter, always friendly. Sad to see this, pray that God will comfort the hearts of his family and all of his loved ones. — Betty Lou Muncey, Composing Room

Betty Lou Muncey - May 15 at 02:12 PM



“ Mr. Hayes was a great principal. When I started at spring hill. The kids would tease that he was my daddy because we had the same last name. I would be so mad , one day he told me to tell the kids he was my white uncle. Lol . Every time I walked by his house I would yell hey uncle. He would laugh and I'll go on my way. A beautiful soul Mr. Hayes had. Great man

Sharma Smith - May 14 at 04:52 PM



“ Thank You Sir for being a positive influence in my life!! I had you from kindergarten through 6th grade and it was such a great pleasure to have known you for all these years!! The best times of my life was growing up as a kid was at Simms school and then Spring Hill elementary!! And you where there taking care of us all!! You will be truly missed,god bless and much love to you sir!!!

Kim Trotter - May 14 at 02:37 PM



“ I went to Simms when he was principal...I really like him...blessed to have known him.



Prudence Dotson - May 14 at 01:12 PM



“ Mr. Hayes was the best present I ever had I really loved him in like to him and got to know him. Monalisa birchfield.

Monalisa birchfield - May 15 at 11:08 AM



“ I worked with Elmer in the Cabell County School System. He was one of the best principals I ever worked with. We traveled together to state and national principal's meetings. He was a great patriot and a very good friend. I cherish the memories we had together. My condolences to his family. Jack Perkins

Jack Perkins - May 14 at 08:48 AM



“ It was such a privilege to work with Mr. Hayes at Spring Hill Elementary. He was strict and demanding and taught me so much about teaching. My sympathy to the family.

Margaret Cummings Reichembecher - May 14 at 08:34 PM



“ Elmer always greeted me warmly, accompanied by that firm handshake and that trademark smile. I was welcomed into his home and he into mine. My place was always the better for his visits as he pitched in with whatever had to be done. He loved a project and never sat idle for long. He was short on small talk and good for a long walk. Friends would report sightings of him all around our town. We spent many hours diagnosing the problems of the world and comparing things of these days to things of his days. Having had so many days and been so many places, he had a unique perspective born of experiences that I was grateful to learn from and fascinated to explore. Whether in 'Elmer's chair', around Sally's table, or mine, that fellowship was much enjoyed. He satisfied his curiosity and I gained insights that could not be found elsewhere.

Shakespeare said, "One man in his time plays many parts." Elmer played a part in the lives of our family for the more than the 35 years I have known my wife. He was the closest thing to a grandfather that my children have known and enjoyed into their adult years. They loved him and have nothing but good memories of the part he played in their lives. In some roles you get to be more relaxed and more of a friendly sage advisor. You get to eat 'night chicken' and share laughter. In some roles only parts of the character's past are relevant. We did not have other volumes available to us. Although I met him in Huntington, most of the settings for our scenes was either Nashville or Bel Air, MD.

In some ways, we are all formed by the people we encounter. Our interactions can be seen by others, yet only experienced by our one singular perspective. In one lifetime, Elmer generated many perspectives as he was fortunate to have so many years. From my perspective, he was quiet yet strong, hard working and a always a gentleman. He was seldom silly, yet enjoyed a good laugh and could echo the laugh by just the thought of the joke or an incident. His sails were trim, his car was clean and his yard was neat. He enjoyed a good meal and took a good long time to eat it. He cared deeply for me and my family.

May he enjoy the rest he has earned in the presence of the One who formed him in his mother's womb nearly a century ago. May he be welcomed with a smile and the loving embrace of the True King who sees us and loves us from every perspective and where things will be Never Better.

Rob McCord
Bel Air, Maryland

Robert McCord - May 14 at 08:21 AM



“ I was a student at Spring Hill Elementary when Mr.Hayes was principal. I was very young but I still remember his big smile and charismatic personality. He seemed to love his job and the students. He would stand outside as the parents picked up their children and would always make it a point to say hello to the parents and have conversations with them. I can't recall ever seeing a principal or teacher who seemed so passionate about their job as Mr. Hayes. Throughout school, there are some teachers and principals that students don't remember much about. Mr. Hayes, however, with his big smile, and upbeat and friendly personality ... he made a lasting impression. I was probably around 7 years old the last time I saw him before he retired but I still remember him like it was yesterday. I don't believe I ever saw him not wearing a smile. So sorry for your loss. Kelly Golice

Kelly Golice - May 13 at 11:52 PM



“ We were blessed to get to know Elmer through his multiple visits to Bel Air with Sally. We enjoyed his friendship and hearing of his many travels and especially his smile! May God welcome Elmer with open arms.

Vicki Semanie - May 13 at 08:36 PM



“ We have many good memories of Elmer. His response when we asked, "How are you?" was always, "Never better." Never better. What a great outlook on life. Matt remembers his firm handshake, even as he got older. And we still plant Celebrity tomatoes because Elmer told us they're the best. We enjoy them every summer. We will miss you and your smile, Elmer. Matt and Sharon Esslinger

Sharon Esslinger - May 13 at 07:49 PM



“ Thank you to the man who taught me to drive, spent holidays, summer vacations (providing us with a freshly mowed lawn!) and graduations with us. Elmer was in every respect my stepfather, and my husband Rob's stepfather-in-law. Elmer was a wonderful and beloved grandfather to my children, Alex & Claire, who will truly miss him. You meant so much to all of us. May God's blessings go with you. Allison McCord

allison mccord - May 13 at 07:44 PM



“ I remember playing pick up basketball with him and many others at the Huntington YMCA, in days long past. He had a great set shot! He was a nice man.

Robert Sole - May 13 at 11:14 AM



“ Elmer and I worked together at Spring Hill. Elmer was a excellent Principal and school and community leader. Elmer was a good man and I will think of him often and will miss him. My deepest sympathy goes out to Elmer's family and many friends.....today is a very sad day for me.



Ron Oliver, Amelia Island Florida - May 13 at 05:44 AM



“ Love you Twink.
Love always, Christie



Christie Robinson - May 12 at 08:22 PM



“ Elmer, you will be truly missed by family and friends.

Mike Bowling (son-in-law) - May 12 at 08:17 PM



“ Even though we're far apart. You're always in my heart. Sally

sally walker - May 13 at 12:27 PM



“ Elmer, Thank You for being a friend and one truly amazing Principal to the children of Simm's and Spring Hill Elementary. You were a dear friend and great influence on all the kids. You will be so missed. Rest in peace.

Karen - May 14 at 02:56 PM