



Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr.

December 21, 1931 - August 4, 2016

BIG STONE GAP, VA

Dr. Brownie Edward Polly, Jr., 84, passed away on Thursday, August 4th at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon.

Born on December 21, 1931 in Appalachia, he spent his early years growing up and attending elementary school in the coal camp of Derby, Virginia. His family later moved to Big Stone Gap and he graduated from Big Stone Gap High School as valedictorian and was quarterback of the football team. He then attended Emory & Henry College where he met his future wife, Barbara, and played halfback and was a member of the 1951 Tangerine Bowl football team. Upon graduation, he attended dental school at MCV in Richmond.

Brownie and Barbara moved back to Big Stone Gap in 1958, and he initially practiced dentistry in Appalachia with his uncle, Dr. Charles Polly before opening his own dental practice in Big Stone Gap, where he would practice for 42 years.

Always active in the community, Brownie was a founding board member of Lonesome Pine Hospital, and was inducted into the Three Star Wellmont Hall of Fame. He was named to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia by then Governor Linwood Holton. He also served on the boards of Clinch Valley College (now UVa-Wise), and Mountain Empire Community College, where he was Chairman. He served on the board of directors of the Wise County Mental Health Association, and was a member of the Big Stone Gap

Kiwanis Club for 68 years, serving as President and was named Kiwanian of the Year. In his later years he enjoyed delivering meals for Meals on Wheels. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Big Stone Gap. An avid sports fan, golfer, and bird hunter, he coached Peanut Football for a number of years and was a diehard University of Tennessee football and Cincinnati Reds baseball fan. Brownie was a past president of Lonesome Pine Country Club. He also enjoyed grouse hunting on Black Mountain. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Barbara Creasy Polly, a daughter, Tamara Polly, a sister, Betty Polly, and his parents, Brownie Polly, Sr. and Nan (Dougherty) Polly. He is survived by his sons Brownie Polly, III and his wife, Connie, of Roanoke, Virginia; Wes Polly and his wife Lisa, of Big Stone Gap, Virginia; and John Polly, of Los Angeles, California. He is also survived by grandchildren, Wesley Polly, II, and Colston Polly of Big Stone Gap; Katherine "Kit" Polly and Brownie Ed Polly, IV of Roanoke; and by his brother, George Polly, of Big Stone Gap.

A special thanks is extended to the staff of the Memory Care wing of Commonwealth Assisted Living facility in Abingdon where Brownie resided for the past year.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 on Sunday, at Trinity United Methodist Church (East First Street S & Wyandotte Ave) in Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Monday at Trinity United Methodist Church in the church sanctuary with the Rev. Terry Goodman officiating. Burial will follow at Powell Valley Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 203 E. 1st Street, S., Big Stone Gap, VA 24219 or a charity of your choice.

To view the obituary online and offer condolences, please visit www.holdingfuneralhome.com

Holding Funeral Home is serving the Polly family.

Cemetery Details

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens

5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
203 E. 1st St., S.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
203 E. 1st St., S.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Burial

AUG 8 (ET)

Powell Valley Memorial Gardens
5650 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 679-0030

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Brownie is with his soulmate barbara walking with her & enjoying the big derby reunion in heaven. He leaves family as a legacy to continue the work he began*



lisa johnson - August 11, 2016 at 07:52 AM



“ *It was my great pleasure to get to know this great man and take care of him. I will never forget him telling me about his trip over seas and what fun he had. He often thought of me as family and I loved him as so. My heart goes out to his family and may you cherish all the great memories with him. God Bless Dwayne Hearl*



Dwayne Hearl - August 10, 2016 at 07:03 PM



“ *We, Bill, Clare, Lisa, and Laurel Polly send our deepest love and sympathy to the rest of the Polly family. As a family that also has connections with Emory and Henry we made a donation to the I-HEY Club in the names of Barbara and Brownie.*

Bill Polly - August 10, 2016 at 01:11 PM

DM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of this wonderful man. Dr Polly and his wife Barbara, raised a wonderful family and accomplished so much to the benefit of our Big Stone Gap and Wise County neighbors. Prayers for Wes, Brownie, John and all the Polly family during this difficult time. God Bless you all. Dan Minahan

Daniel Minahan - August 09, 2016 at 08:08 AM

SC

“ Shirley Church lit a candle in memory of Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr.



Shirley church - August 07, 2016 at 10:59 PM

SC

“ It was a honor to be able to care for mr.polly and meet his wonderful family thank you for letting me care for mr.polly he was a wonderful loving man he will be missed.

Shirley church - August 07, 2016 at 10:56 PM

LM

“ As a friend of John for many years I've heard many stories of both Brownie and Barbara. Such a special couple who I'm happy to have had the privilege to have met. John shared many stories of road trips to spring training, summer beach trips and random holiday and BSG stories. I was lucky enough to have spent a 4th of July with them in NYC where we attended a Yankee Game in 95 degree heat. They were such a happy loving couple. Very sad to hear of Brownie's passing. Lots of love to the entire Polly family.

Lauren Meyer - August 07, 2016 at 08:25 PM

BF

“ *Bob and Nancy Morris & Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr..*



Bob and Nancy Morris & Family - August 07, 2016 at 02:14 PM

TB

“ *I consider it a honor to have had the privilege to know this family. Thank you for allowing us to love and care for your dad. That sweet smile and those piercing blue eyes would melt any heart. Your lives will never be the same without your sweet parents, I'm sure he was glad to finally see his Barb! You're in our thoughts and prayers.*



Teresa Boyd - August 06, 2016 at 07:04 PM

 Kristi Mason

“ *I was heart broken to hear the news of my sweet resident passing. I want to thank the family for my opportunity to get to know and care for your loved one. He will be missed in our facility. May God comfort you and prayers for days ahead. I truly enjoyed my moments with my blue eyed buddy! To the family- I will never forget you first day there serving you all with transition to the memory care unit! Prayers for all of you!*



Kristi Mason - August 06, 2016 at 10:46 AM

JB

“ A true, gentle man was Brownie. In fact he, his mom, dad and George all were and are the greatest neighbors and friends anyone could want. Barbara fit smoothly into that mold to make the family unit so impressive. Laura and I offer our deepest condolences to the family and thanks for having been able to know you all. George, our thoughts and prayers are with you and the nephews.

John and Laura Bradburne

john bradburne - August 06, 2016 at 07:43 AM

WM

“ Walt, Evelyn, Ann, and Bob Marrs purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr..



Walt, Evelyn, Ann, and Bob Marrs - August 06, 2016 at 12:47 AM

JW

“ Brownie was the best dentist and friend. His smile always made me happy. He loved the "Derby Reunions" AND ALL WERE SO GLAD TO SEE HIM AND BARBARA. Big Stone Gap and area will surely miss Brownie and Barbara. They were a light to the town!



janet wilson - August 05, 2016 at 08:45 PM

ML

“ *Mary Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Brownie Edward Polly Jr.*



Mary Lewis - August 05, 2016 at 08:22 PM

ML

Brownie Ed, Wes, John and families, I was saddened to hear the news of your father's passing. Dr. Polly was my first boss out of dental hygiene school in 1981. He had a heart and passion for helping people. I always enjoyed and appreciated your Mom sending me updates on everyone at Christmas. I will miss that. Dr. Polly and Barbara were very proud of each of you and your many accomplishments. May God give you peace and comfort in this difficult time. Love and hugs to you, Mary Lewis

Mary Lewis - August 05, 2016 at 08:29 PM

CP

Dr. Polly treated my grandfather, my parents, my brother and I, my wife, and my son. (He and my grandfather also played more than a few rounds of golf together.)

He was MORE than our family dentist, he was a part of our family. He was kind, professional, and could always make my visits enjoyable by talking about sports especially LPD sports and the Reds,

Dr. Polly was part off the foundation of good people who made Southwest Virginia a marvelous place to grow up, live, and raise a family in. God bless and provide comfort to his family!

Clark and Lisa Phipps, Duffield, VA

Clark Phipps - August 06, 2016 at 11:56 AM

PG

I have great memories of Dr. Polly. He always welcomed me into the family gatherings from the time he coached us in peanut football thru college in which Wes and I were roommates at one time. I will only have good memories of the Pollys and send the family our condolences. Also from all of the Phi Gama Phi fraternity we love you brother.

Phil Hoskins Marietta Ga - August 06, 2016 at 07:31 PM