



Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads

January 23, 1939 - April 25, 2015

Appalachia, Virginia.

Melvyn Wayne Eads 76, passed from this earth into paradise on Saturday (April 25, 2015) at Johnson City Medical Center.

Melvyn was born and raised in Derby, Virginia. He was the son of the late; Claude "Homebrew" and Mabel Eads. He had a very active life in which he held many different job titles and responsibilities.

He and Avanell married at a young age and moved to Chicago, where he worked for a Sheet metal fabrication company, he then received training to become a paramedic. After a short while of living in Chicago, the family headed home to Southwest Virginia where they would live the rest of their lives. While in Southwest VA, Melvyn and Brother in Law William "Bill" Seabolt worked in the mines together, after many years of a family/partnership the two opened up Seavyn Coal Company; where they became coal operators in the joint venture. Melvyn had great pride in the town of Appalachia; he was always an enthusiastic supporter of the athletics department. He also was instrumental in building the Press box at Riggs stadium; he was the past President of the Sports association, and in his later years could be found working the concession stand at almost all Appalachia's sporting events. Melvyn owned and operated a monument company in Big Stone Gap for

many years. He graduated from Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in Theology and joined the ministry. He was a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church where he served in a pastoral role alongside his good friend Don Childress.

He was preceded in death by his parents Claude "Homebrew and Mabel Eads, his daughter Nancy Eads, one brother Howard Ray Doyle.

He is survived by wife Avaneil Eads of the home, daughter Tammy Kilgore husband Harmon of Poplar Hill in Big Stone Gap, his brother Jimmy Doyle and wife Della of Kingsport TN, sister Una Fay and husband Dr. Michael Ford of East Stone Gap, grandchildren; Sammy Belcher Jr. and Melvyn Wade Belcher and Natasha Bowen, two great grandchildren that he truly loved; Aidan Belcher and Paizlee Belcher; Sister in Laws; Betty Mathieson and husband Bill, and Linda Cooper and husband Sid , special brother in laws, Felix W. Acosta and William "Bill" Seabolt ;special friend and honorary daughter; April Baker and a host of other close relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday (April 28) from 5pm until 7pm for the visitation at Holding Funeral Home of Big Stone Gap.

The funeral service will be conducted following the visitation with the Pastors; Don Childress, and Harmon Kilgore Officiating.

Special music will be provided by Jimmy Garrison and Tracy Doyle Kress.

The committal service will be held on Wednesday (April 29) at 11:00 am in the American Legion Cemetery. Those wishing to attend the committal are asked to meet at the funeral home by 10:30 to go in procession to the cemetery.

Pallbearers will be; Sammy and Wade Belcher, Bill Seabolt, Robbie Seabolt,

John Clark, and Randy Hollinger.

You may go online to view the obituary or sign the guest registry at www.holdingfuneralhome.com

Holding Funeral Home of Big Stone Gap is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Holding Funeral Home, Inc.
17 E. 3rd St., N.
P. O. Drawer H
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
1-276-523-1470
holdingfuneralhome@comcast.net
<http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com>

Service

APR **28**. 7:00 PM (ET)

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Funeral Procession

APR **29**. 10:30 AM (ET)

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Committal Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

American Legion Cemetery
5001 Powell Valley Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Peace, love, comfort and prayers to the Eads family from the Scallan family.*

joe scallan - April 30, 2015 at 08:56 AM



“ *I was very sorry to hear you have lost someone so precious to your heart. Special memories of Melvyn visiting with us at the Crackers Neck farm in Big Stone and blessed times at the Derby Church. Wishing you strength for today and comfort in the days ahead. Love and prayers, Dorinda Bradshaw*



dorinda bradshaw - April 29, 2015 at 03:28 PM



“ *Rickie & Miranda Deboard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*



Rickie & Miranda Deboard - April 28, 2015 at 03:28 PM

RS

“ *May God hold you in His loving arms, & give you comfort, as only He can. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Roy & Joyce Salyer & family*

Roy & Joyce Salyer - April 28, 2015 at 01:25 PM

CN

“ *Melvyn was my best buddy when we were playmates in Derby for over ten years. Then my family moved away. We never lost contact. I went into the Air Force; he went into the coal mines. Melvyn, Herald D. Lane and I got at least partial credit for lots of questionable events around Derby and Arno, back in the day.*

Melvyn is now with the God he loved so much. Bless Avanel and his many friends.

Although I regret not being able to pay my respects to Melvyn and his family and to so many of our mutual friends by attending his funeral, my anguish is that I could not visit him more often while he was alive, whether he was at times feeling low and ill.

But now he is young and vigorous again, and with his beloved Jesus. Our prayers are that his family and friends are serene with the sure knowledge that so many people loved Melvyn Eads.

With Greatest Love and Respect,

*Charles Bailey Neel
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Charles Bailey Neel - April 28, 2015 at 01:24 PM

HW

“ *Pray for the family.*

Harold Willis

Harold Willis - April 28, 2015 at 10:59 AM

WR

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for Melvyn's family.*

Cecil Russell



William Cecil Russell - April 28, 2015 at 10:57 AM

JD

“ *Jimmy Dale purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads.*



Jimmy Dale - April 27, 2015 at 04:40 PM

BI

“ *Avanell and family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I am praying for you and your family for strength and comfort as you say goodbye to sweet, kind Melvyn. Love you, Billie and Charles Hobbs*



Billie - April 27, 2015 at 03:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads.*



April 27, 2015 at 02:40 PM



“ *Betty,Bill,Mike,Kim, Jason and Julie purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads.*



Betty,Bill,Mike,Kim, Jason and Julie - April 27, 2015 at 01:11 PM



“ *Daniel Bishop lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*



daniel bishop - April 27, 2015 at 10:11 AM

DO

“ I'm sure my daughter Candy had a big smile when she saw Melvyn come through those Pearly Gates. She thought the world of him, as did Gerald and myself. Melvyn was a dear friend that was always the same and who treated everyone kind. When I was in LPH, which I was a lot. He'd come by my room on the way to visit Heritage Hall Patients to Pray with me. He was a Blessing to us and I looked forward to his visits. We'd talk awhile, he ask about my family and then he'd Pray the sweetest Prayer. Gerald and I will never forget his kindness! On one occasion when Doc Ford almost lost me, they called my family in and Doc finally got me stable. Someone called Melvyn and he stopped by the ER and got Una to come upstairs to my room. He ask me if I was KNEW I was saved and I told him yes I was! Because of a past circumstance in my life, he wanted to make sure I was right with The Lord! I appreciated him for caring enough about me to want to know where my Soul would be going. I told him that I was ok with the Lord and had rededicated my life to Him. I also said that if I died that day I knew where I'd be going. He said good ..I'm really glad! Bless His Heart!! I've been friends with Una Fay since we were young and her and Melvyn both had a heart like their dad Claude (home brew). Now he was a very close and Special friend of Gerald and mine also!! I Loved that man with ALL my heart!! I'll see you again Melvyn on the other side with lots of our family and friends!! I can't wait to see my Sweet Candy!!

Darlene Owsley - April 27, 2015 at 09:59 AM

DB

“ During a difficult time in our lives, Melvyn called and offered support to us that touched our hearts. Heaven has certainly gained an angel. Rest in peace friend.



Donnie & Abbie Blair - April 27, 2015 at 09:22 AM

JP

“ Little did my parents know when they retired and moved back to Derby that God would bless them with the best neighbor and friends in the world. Melvyn was always there for our family. He performed my daughters wedding and my parents funerals. He shared many meals with our family and he shared that big generous heart of his. He will be so missed but we know his is lighting up Heaven with that wonderful smile of his. Thank you Melvyn, for all the memories.
Love you Janna McCart Pursell

janna mccart pursell - April 27, 2015 at 08:25 AM

 Debbie
Bouton-
Fugate

“ Heaven is surely rejoicing...I love you Una Fay Ford, so sorry for your loss Prayers of comfort and peace for all of the family. Melvyn always had a kind word for everyone and always a smile on his face. If anyone needs anything please just let us know..

Debbie Bouton-Fugate - April 27, 2015 at 06:59 AM

DT

“ Dianne Talbott lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Melvyn Wayne Eads



Dianne Talbott - April 27, 2015 at 05:43 AM

CM

“ Prayers for peace and Comfort, Melvyn will be missed by so many of us. Love you all. Una fay is my best friend and I am so proud to feel like part of her family. I love you Una and all of your family. if anyone needs anything at all just let me know. I will do anything I can for any of you all. I will surely miss Melvyn . His smile is lighting up heaven, I'm sure of that.



Cindy Mosier - April 26, 2015 at 10:26 PM

KA

“ Melvyn is missed. I had already missed his visits and wisdom these past weeks, but was looking forward to the day he would feel better and stop by again. He was definitely one of a kind ... a man that joyfully and unconditionally gave of himself to any person in need. I loved Melvyn Eads and love his beautiful wife and family. May God bless you all with understanding and peace and many many happy memories. Karon

Karon - April 26, 2015 at 10:14 PM



“ Tomi Owens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads



Tomi Owens - April 26, 2015 at 09:43 PM

WC

“ *Wilma Clark lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*



Wilma Clark - April 26, 2015 at 08:30 PM

KZ

“ *Kim Ziegler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*



Kim Ziegler - April 26, 2015 at 08:29 PM

KB

“ *Melvyn never once failed to treat me as part of his family. I came into his life after marrying his ex-son in law but he never treated me anything but wonderful. Especially through the last several years since Aidan was born I have become even closer to him and the whole family. They actually feel like they are MY family as well. We would always flirt with each other to act like we were trying to make his wife jealous :)
I love you Melvyn and will miss that sweet smile.*

Kim Belcher - April 26, 2015 at 08:23 PM

DB

“ *Dedra Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvyn Wayne Eads*



Dedra Baker - April 26, 2015 at 08:14 PM

JS

“ *Melvyn bought me my first Tennessee Volunteer hat. I thought he hung the moon. Rest in peace until we meet again on the streets if gold.*

Jeff Swiney - April 26, 2015 at 07:55 PM

TK

“ *My first love, my best friend, my daddy.....my life is forever changed, I feel like a piece of me is missing. I trusting in God to hold me in his comforting arms until I see you again. I love you so very much and you will be missed.*

Tammy Kilgore - April 26, 2015 at 07:51 PM

 Karen Martin

“ *I will forever be grateful to Melvin for a free burial plot for my father-in-law who died in 2012 . He was a kind and caring man. We love you and miss you. Save a place for me we will meet again.*

Karen Martin - April 26, 2015 at 07:51 PM

LJ

“ Looking forward to that big derby reunion in heaven
Lisa Johnson



lisa johnson - April 26, 2015 at 05:50 PM

UF

“ My brother I love you dearly and looking forward to a great reunion in Heaven. Rest in peace sweet brother.

Una Fay Ford - April 26, 2015 at 04:17 PM



Ms Una Fay ur family is in our thoughts. Melvin was always a joy n jokester and loved talking to us. Harvey n I will miss him..Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Harvey n Heather Mullins

Heather Mullins - April 26, 2015 at 05:19 PM

LT

Una Fay, mom and I have you in our prayers. Melvyn was a very special person to all of us and will truly be missed. I'm sure he's already giving Carl Lester an earful in Heaven. Les and Kathy Tipton and Mae Tipton.

Les Tipton - April 26, 2015 at 07:01 PM

YC

Avanell and family, I am so sorry for your loss. The last time I saw Melvyn was when we came to Derby to bring our mothers ashes to scatter in a place she loved, lived and attended church as a young woman. I hope you find comfort in your family and friends. With love,
Yvonne Lyons Clark

Yvonne Clark - April 29, 2015 at 08:52 PM

MD

Una Fay,so sorry to hear about your brother. We bought my granddaughters head stone from him. He was a good man. You are in my prayers,as well as the rest of the family. Mavis and John

Mavis Ann Christian Davis - April 30, 2015 at 12:53 PM