



Oran Lee "Bird" Blackburn

April 14, 1930 - July 26, 2024

Oran Lee "Bird" Blackburn, Jr., 94, of Hiltons, VA, went to be with the Lord he loved on Friday, July 26, 2024 at his residence.

He was born on April 14, 1930 in Norton, VA, a son of the late Oran Lee Blackburn, Sr and Mabel (Mullins) Blackburn. In addition to his parents, Bird was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Blackburn; second wife, Shirley Blackburn; sisters, Barbara Richardson, Jeanette Tomlinson, Yvonne Carter, Christine Jones, Norma Odum and Roberta Stewart; brothers, Thomas, Francis and Keith Blackburn.

Bird was an active member of Hiltons Memorial United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School and served on several boards with the church over the years. He was a veteran of the US Army having served in the Korean War. Bird was a longtime educator, retiring as a principal. He enjoyed coaching and was an avid golfer. Bird was a pillar of the Hiltons Community where he was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all his family, church family and friends.

He is survived by a sister, Ruth Ann Fugate, Hiltons, VA; brother, Joe Blackburn, Knoxville, TN; several nieces and nephews; other special family members, Ashley and Paul Murray and their children, Charles Oran and Noah.

Graveside services will be held at 12:30 pm Saturday, August 3, 2024 at Holston View Cemetery with Pastor Will Shewey and Pastor Randy Mutter officiating. Special music will be provided by Oscar Harris. Everyone is welcome to gather at 12:15 pm at the cemetery for the service.

The family would like to extend a very special thank you to Julie and Matt Smith, Kay Dockery and John Nagy for all the love and care they showed to Bird.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hiltons Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 10, Hiltons, VA 24258.

An online guest registry is available for the family at holdingfuneralhome.com

Holding Funeral Home of Big Stone Gap, Lindsay Fischer, Funeral Director is honored to serve the family of Oran Lee "Bird" Blackburn, Jr.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

Holston View Cemetery
1383 US Hwy 23 S.
Weber City, VA 24290

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *One of my favorite coaches ever. What a wonderful man.*

Jim Cooper - August 02, 2024 at 11:53 PM

DS

“ *Mr. Blackburn was one of my principals at Rye Cove HS. He was an awesome person and I'm sad for his family. Dianna Wells Shire Class of 1974*

Dianna Wells Shire - August 02, 2024 at 02:57 PM

JJ

“ *Mr. Blackburn was the principal at Rye Cove High School for most of my high school years. I've always had great respect for him because of the way he conducted himself and treated others, co-workers and students alike. My condolences to his friends and loved ones. The hardest part of living is losing those we love.*

James Kay Jessee - August 02, 2024 at 07:23 AM

SS

“ *My first basketball coach, 8th grade old Shoemaker High at Gate City. Lifelong friend. May God be with his family.*

Sam Starnes - July 31, 2024 at 01:51 PM

BB

“ *I can hear Brother Bird's booming voice praising his Saviour before the throne. We look forward to joining you in that praise before much longer Brother Bird! Our prayers follow all of the family. Toni and Bill Bowling.*

Bill and Toni Bowling - July 31, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JK

“ *Mr Blackburn was my first principal when I went to Rye Cove High School to teach in the school year of 1970-1971. He was a good man and a true professional. Our prayers are for his family and friends— Jim & Jamie Kelly*



jim kelly - July 31, 2024 at 09:21 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Oran Lee "Bird" Blackburn.*



July 30, 2024 at 10:33 PM

CQ

“ *Chris, Jennifer, Grace, & Mason Quillen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Oran Lee "Bird" Blackburn.*

Chris, Jennifer, Grace, & Mason Quillen - July 30, 2024 at 10:33 PM

RS

“ *Uncle Bird was a wonderful godly man. Even though he didn't have biological children he most certainly loved his nieces and nephews as his own, and the many students he encountered. This earthly world was graced by him and now he is graced by his Heavenly Father, Lord, and Savior.*

Rebecca Scott - July 30, 2024 at 12:42 PM

SB

“ *Mr. Blackburn was a wonderful Godly person who was a great friend and neighbor. He was certainly a pillar of the Hiltons Community and will be greatly missed. He was a great Bible Study teacher and Sunday School teacher at our church for many years. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family, friends and church family. Shirley and Grady Blalock*

shirley m blalock - July 29, 2024 at 05:20 PM

DH

“ *Such a sweet, Godly man. Heaven has gained an angel ! Prayers for comfort. Diana*

Diana Harris - July 29, 2024 at 03:44 PM

JT

Bird and I graduated in the same class (1947) at Hiltons High School. We were on the basketball team together. He will certainly be missed. Junior Taylor

Junior Taylor - August 02, 2024 at 04:20 PM