



## Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III

May 28, 1927 - July 3, 2013

Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III, 86 of Tazewell, VA died Wednesday, July 3, 2013 at his home. He was born May 28, 1927 at Durham, NC and was a son of the late Benjamin Louis Susman, Jr. and Ann Land Susman. He was of the Jewish faith.

Dr. Susman attended Duke University and the Southern College of Optometry. He began his practice in 1951 in Bluefield, WV. From 1953 until 2007 when he had his first stroke, he practiced optometry in Tazewell, VA where you not only received excellent eye care, but you got his famous lollipops, recipes, enjoyed his wonderful sense of humor with his jokes, and relaxed in the rocking chairs. Dr. Susman was an active member of the American Optometric Association, the Virginia Optometric Association, and the Lonesome Pine Optometric Association. He thought Tazewell, VA was the greatest and most beautiful place in the United States. He loved his community and his state and served them well. His true love was for the children of Tazewell County. Because he wanted to insure that all the students in Tazewell County would have the best education possible, he served on the Tazewell County Board of Education a total of 17 years. He worked to get grant funding for a fully equipped Health Clinic in the schools. He was Past Chairman of the Virginia State Mandated School Health Advisory Board. Some of the other ways he helped his community and state were by serving on the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, the Tazewell Town Council, the Tazewell Planning Commission, the Governor's Advisory Council, the Virginia Commission for Local

Government, and the Commission for the Economic Development of Southwest Virginia. For 58 years he was a member of the Tazewell Lion's Club. He was Past President of the Tazewell Lion's Club, Tazewell Jaycees, and the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of the American Legion Post #133 in Tazewell, VA.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his only brother, Alan Susman. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife, Shirley Godbey Susman, who was so blessed to have him in her life; three sons, David Susman and wife, Kathy of Lexington, KY, Jayson Susman of Clearwater, FL, and Shannon Susman of Savannah, GA; his wonderful granddaughter, Allison Susman of Lexington, KY; sister-in-law, Sally Susman of Beckley, WV; niece, Robin Wartella of Beckley, WV; two nephews, Tom Susman of Charleston, WV and Ben Susman of Beckley, WV; special cousins, Emily Land Young of Wilmington, NC; Margie Land Murray of Denver CO. He is also survived by his Godbey family who loved him dearly; sisters-in-law, Nancy Wallace of North Tazewell, VA, Bertha Hoback of Wytheville, VA, Juanita Lowe of Hollywood, FL, and Doris Godbey of Daytona Beach, FL; brother-in-law, George Godbey and wife, Marilyn of Richlands, VA. Many loving nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews. His special girls from Heartland Therapy, Beth Matthews of Bluefield, WV, Bethany Ray of Cedar Bluff, VA, Billie Carol Keene of North Tazewell, VA, Kelli Orr of Richlands, VA, Liz Martin of Chilhowie, VA, Shellie Stout of Rosedale, VA, and Wendy Dillon of Tazewell, VA; his special kids, William and Abby Matthews, Peyton and Madyson Dillon, and Grayson Orr.

Funeral services for Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Friday, July 5, 2013 at the Hurst – Scott Funeral Home Chapel in Tazewell, VA with Rabbi Stanley Funston officiating. Burial will follow at Grandview Memory Gardens in Bluefield, VA. Relatives and Friends will serve as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home after 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, July 5, 2013.

Donations in his memory may be made to: The Tazewell High School Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund; PO Box 255, Tazewell, VA 24651.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home of Tazewell, VA will be serving the family of Dr. Susman and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Grandview Memory Gardens

38659 Gov . G.C. Peery Hwy  
Bluefield, VA 24605

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 5. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home of Tazewell  
870 Main Street  
Tazewell, VA 24651  
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

## Service

JUL 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home of Tazewell  
870 Main Street  
Tazewell, VA 24651  
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Velma Conner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



**Velma Conner** - August 01, 2013 at 12:40 PM



“ *Judy West lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



**Judy West** - July 20, 2013 at 01:01 PM



“ *To the family of Dr. Ben Susman,  
May God Bless and comfort you in your bereavement. Dr. Susman  
will be greatly missed!.*  
*Jerry Vencill*

**Helen Vencill Custalow** - July 18, 2013 at 06:21 PM

MT

“ *Melinda C Taylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



Melinda C Taylor - July 13, 2013 at 05:49 PM

HB

“ *Helen Broadwell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



Helen Broadwell - July 11, 2013 at 12:27 PM

TH

“ *David I am sorry for the loss of your Dad. Tammy Sheppard Hall*

Tammy Sheppard Hall - July 11, 2013 at 11:48 AM

AM

“ *Anita McGlothlin-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



Anita McGlothlin-Gibson - July 08, 2013 at 11:25 AM

SH

*Thank you so much.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:11 PM

BN

“ *Dr. Susman was a great man and we will always remember him. Especially for his jokes he shared with everyone at the Retread breakfasts on Sunday mornings. He was a kind and generous man and a great doctor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Bill & Mary Lou Nabors  
Bluefield, WV*

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**Bill Nabors** - July 06, 2013 at 08:50 AM

SH

*He loved the Retreads and missed going the last few years. Thank you for being such a good friend to him.*

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**Shirley** - July 08, 2013 at 07:15 PM

LC

“ *I am so saddened to hear of Ben's passing. He has left a wonderful legacy for all to enjoy. My father counted Ben as one of his dearest friends as both men proudly served Tazewell county. "For every tear a memory.. for every memory a smile.." My thoughts are with you during this time. I was privileged to have known and loved him, too. Lynn Gilmore Chance..Oakboro, NC formerly of Pocahontas..*

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**Lynn Gilmore Chance** - July 05, 2013 at 03:27 PM

SH

*Lynn, thank you for those kind words. He was a remarkable man.*

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**Shirley** - July 08, 2013 at 07:17 PM

CS

“ *David and family...*

*I was sad to learn of Dr. Susman's death. He was kind and generous... and I still have the first pair of glasses he prescribed for me when I was 16!*

*We pray God will comfort each of you.*

*Carroll Sluss  
Lynchburg, Virginia*

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**Carroll Sluss** - July 05, 2013 at 10:00 AM

NR

“ *Norma Jewell Richardson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



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**Norma Jewell Richardson** - July 05, 2013 at 08:30 AM

SH

*Thank you so much.*

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**Shirley** - July 08, 2013 at 08:10 PM



“ *Dr Ben you helped to make everyone see more clearly and made everyone laugh and be happy. RIP and shalom to all your family and friends who loved and adored you.*

*Marc Eller*

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**Marc Eller** - July 05, 2013 at 03:33 AM

SH

*Thank you. Everyone loved his sense of humor.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:13 PM

TG

“ *We were very sad to hear of Dr. Susman's passing. We had the privilege of living near him and his family during our time in Tazewell. He was a greatman and had a wonderful family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Tom and Jacque Goforth - July 04, 2013 at 02:52 PM

SH

*Ben thought a lot of you. Thank you for the kind thoughts.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:14 PM

JD


“ *Jimmy and I have known Ben since the late 1950's, and Jimmy camped and hiked with him on many occasions. Our families were joined during happy and sad times. This is a sad time, but we have such fond and happy memories of laughter, food fests, and long talks. We shall miss Ben. He was a very important part of our neighborhood and our town. Dr. Ben helped make Tazewell a good place to raise children. Our thoughts are with the family. Jim, Joan, and Jamey Doak*

Joan Doak - July 04, 2013 at 01:44 PM

SH

*Thanks, Joan. Ben always loved spending time with you and Jimmy. He often talked about his camping trips.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:17 PM

 Teresa Dove

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with you all during this difficult time. If you all need anything, please let us know. Love you!!!*

Teresa Dove - July 04, 2013 at 10:31 AM

SH

*Thanks, Teresa. It helps to know I can call you anytime. Thanks for being such a good friend. Love you.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:18 PM

CW

“ *Chris White lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



Chris White - July 04, 2013 at 10:00 AM

SH

*Chris, we appreciate all you did for the entire family.*

Shirley - July 08, 2013 at 08:20 PM

FR

“ *Prayers and thoughts with you. Jo Edith Stevens and Family.*



Frances - July 04, 2013 at 07:29 AM

DM

“ *Dr. Ben what a man! He will be missed by so many. A caring man, but a real gentleman. Sending our love and prayers to Shirley, Jayson, Shannon, David and all of your precious family. Ben you will always have a special place in our hearts. Love to all,  
Don and Meta*



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**Don and Meta** - July 04, 2013 at 07:00 AM

SH

*What would we do without you and Don. Thank you so much for being such a wonderful friend. Ben loved you and Don*

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**Shirley** - July 08, 2013 at 08:22 PM

SR

“ *Sherry Ross lit a candle in memory of Dr. Benjamin L. Susman, III*



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**Sherry Ross** - July 03, 2013 at 08:13 PM

SH

*Oh Sherry, thanks for always being there when I need you. Ben loved all your family. Much love to you.*

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**Shirley** - July 08, 2013 at 08:24 PM