



Cosby Ann Asbury Totten

July 20, 1941 - January 27, 2020

Cosby Ann Asbury Totten, age 78, of Thompson Valley, VA was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, January 27, 2020 at Tazewell Community Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Bane Asbury and Rebecca Vance Asbury.

In addition to her parents, Cosby was preceded in death by her sisters, Willetta Spaulding, Pansy Smith, Earnestine Dickens, Violet Baxter, Marie Talbert and Estelle Tinsley; brothers Bane Asbury, Jr. and Jack Walter Messer. Left to cherish her memory are her "six good reasons for mining coal" her children, Clarence Totten, Jr. (wife, Cynthia Griffith), Rebecca Totten (fiancé, Teddy Arrington, Sr.), Victoria Hagy (husband, Guy Hagy), Goldie Kiser (husband, Randal Kiser), Bobbie Bane Williams (husband, Casey Williams) and William Totten. Cosby adored her grandchildren Luciann Smith (husband, Zack Smith), Dusty Kiser, Caramae Totten, Jeffrey Hagy (fiancée, Katlyn Brown), Destiny Hagy (fiancé, Jeffrey Lowe), Austin Hagy, Tyler "Tybob" Stacy, Takeisha Stacy; her great-grandchildren, Stanley Smith and Hayden Lowe. She was also a bonus Mom/MamMaw to many "younguns" over the years including her precious Hat Rock Road Gang.

She is also survived by a sister, Mary Dove Cornwell; a brother Newt Asbury; a cousin, Jack Futch who became her special "brother" growing up on the farm and many beloved in-laws and out-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews. Cosby was a member of L.U. 6025 U.M.W.A. She was an underground coal miner who quickly became known as "Cat", a Coordinator for the U.M.W.A.

and the Coal Employment Project and a founding member of the Daughters of Mother Jones. She was honored to be selected to represent the United States in a delegation to tour coal mines in China. One of her greatest achievements was helping lead the national fight for Parental Leave which evolved into what we know today as the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Graveside Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at the Grandview Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Bluefield, VA with Brother Kelvin Seabolt officiating. Pallbearers will be Dusty Kiser, Randy Kiser, Anthony Arrington, Teddy Arrington, Jr., Zack Smith, Guy Hagy, Austin Hagy, Jeffrey Hagy and Casey Williams. Honorary Pallbearers will be her Coal Mining Sisters. To honor her love of blue jeans, family and friends are asked to join the family in wearing jeans to Cosby's service.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Thompson Valley Church of God in Thompson Valley, VA on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 5 p.m. followed by visitation and dinner.

The family appreciates the care and compassion shown to them and Cosby by Brother Kelvin and Sister Amy Seabolt; the staff at Heritage Hall, Tazewell Community Hospital and Hurst Scott Funeral Home, and Chris White.

Floral tributes or memorial donations may be made to the Thompson Valley Church of God Bible School Fund (200 Talon Road Tazewell, VA 24651).

Cosby was a unique, one of a kind individual who sacrificed much to raise her six children. Godspeed Mom...we love you more.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Tazewell, VA is serving the family of Ms. Totten and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Memory Gardens

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

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Grandview Memory Gardens
38659 Gov . G.C. Peery Hwy
Bluefield, VA 24605

Celebration Of Life

FEB 1. 5:00 PM (ET)

Thompson Valley Church of God
Tazewell, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *What a wonderful woman! Friend, risk taker, leader. Miss her*

Sally Maggard - December 06, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *Cosby Ann Asbury Totten*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Cosby Ann Asbury Totten*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *I was very sorry to hear about Cosby's death earlier this year. I first heard about her from my work cataloguing the archive of Raissa Page at Swansea University, Wales, UK, whose well known photograph of Cosby that is on the left. This took place in 2018-19, and I am now back researching and writing a book about Raissa's life and work. I had hoped I might be able to talk to Cosby about that time. I am so saddened that this will not now be possible. My condolences to all of her family and friends.*

Do please follow the project twitter account at <https://twitter.com/RaissaPage> for more news of the resultant book, which will definitely include some images from those times.

David Johnston-Smith - September 15, 2020 at 10:17 AM

JJ

“ *She was a great person. Sorry to hear of her passing. Prayers to the family*

Janet Todd Johnson - March 05, 2020 at 11:09 AM

“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten.*



February 01, 2020 at 09:04 AM

JR

“ *Real leaders have followers and Cosby was respected and loved by women miners, UMWA members and countless others who knew her. She worked tirelessly for many years for Parental Leave, leading women UMWA members to become delegates to their constitutional convention in 1983 and making a resolution for parental leave the third highest submitted. Her children even formed Kids For Parental Leave (with hard hat stickers even) to build support with other young people.*

Cosby's wisdom and insights have stuck with me for years. She will always be in my heart.

Lead on dear fighter for justice !

June Rostan

June Rostan - January 31, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DK

“ *Many good times at Mamaw Coz's.*

Donna Kiser - January 31, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ *Sorry to hear this She was my cousin*

Nancy Beavers-Whaley - January 30, 2020 at 04:24 PM

KD

“ *Sending sympathy, love, and gratitude to the beautiful family of our beautiful UMWA coal mining sister, Cosby Totten. Sympathy for your loss, love to each and all of you who gave and give so much love to Cosby, and to all of us women miners and our union brothers, and gratitude for sharing so much of Cosby's time and energy and creativity and dedication with us and our union (not that she would have allowed you NOT to let her!). She is with us.*

Kipp Dawson - January 29, 2020 at 04:34 PM

KD

“ *Sending sympathy, love, and gratitude to the beautiful family of our beautiful*

Kipp Dawson - January 29, 2020 at 04:32 PM

MM

“ *Cosby played a vital role in the Pittston strike and was a founding member of the Daughters of Mothers Jones in that strike. She was a natural leader, with a great sense of humor. I will always remember her in her floppy white hat, with a thick protective layer of zinc oxide on her face, on the picket line for a year during informational picketing as the UMWA prepared to strike Pittston. And of course, dancing in the lobby of the Pittston building during the women's occupation of the building.*

Cos, you'll never be forgotten.

Marat Moore - January 29, 2020 at 03:36 PM

MW

“ *Melinda Winingham lit a candle in memory of
Cosby Ann Asbury Totten*



Melinda Winingham - January 29, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased
for the family of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten.*



January 29, 2020 at 12:43 PM

SS

“ *Susan Sheets lit a candle in memory of
Cosby Ann Asbury Totten*



Susan Sheets - January 29, 2020 at 11:44 AM

CR

“ *Cosby was a personal friend for 40 years. She was involved in our
Union at every level. During the Pittston Strike she was on the
picket line constantly. She was at every rally, march, and
demonstration. Cosby was someone I was proud to call my sister!
Indeed, "She was UMWA PROUD!"*

Cecil E. Roberts - January 29, 2020 at 11:10 AM

LG

“ I was fortunate enough to spend time with Cosby in Birmingham. She was quite a remarkable woman! My deepest condolences to the family.

Lori Gordy - January 29, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten



TonyanEdgar Wicks - January 29, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ The family of Cat Counts sends our thoughts and prayers for Cosby "Cat" Totten family. May God comfort you all.



Bobbi Rasnick - January 29, 2020 at 08:40 AM

GA

“ Glenda And R.B. Altizer lit a candle in memory of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten



Glenda and R.B. Altizer - January 29, 2020 at 02:00 AM

TO

“ *RIP Cosby. Thanks for all you did for coal mine safety...*



Tony Opegard - January 29, 2020 at 01:46 AM

BS

“ *Cos you aren't gone! You are watching over the safety of all miners. We had fun together and tackled many obstacles! You are my sister by blood, sweat, and tears! You raised a wonderful family and I do believe Randy will line them out. Rest my friend- you are God's angel now! Women Miners Can Dig it Too*
Beverly Smith
Illinois

Beverly Smith - January 29, 2020 at 12:54 AM

JG

“ *Jeannie Garrett lit a candle in memory of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten*



Jeannie Garrett - January 28, 2020 at 09:25 PM

HC

“ to the family of Cosby Totten,
My thoughts and Prayers are with you in the passing of your loved one! She was a hard working lady that loved her family dearly! May God Bless and comfort you in your bereavement!
Jerry Vencill

Helen Vencill Custalow - January 28, 2020 at 09:05 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten.



January 28, 2020 at 09:00 PM

SS

“ Goldie and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Parents are hard to do without, I find myself thinking I need to call, when things come up even after 20 years. Praying for peace and comfort for each one of you. Gary and Sylvia Sadler



Sylvia K Sadler - January 28, 2020 at 07:54 PM

NH

“ Nancy Horne sent a virtual gift in memory of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten



Nancy Horne - January 28, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cosby Ann Asbury Totten.* ”



January 28, 2020 at 07:02 PM