

Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis

December 24, 1949 - April 3, 2017

Sam Lewis left this earth on April 3, 2017. Before this day, he spent his years living a life full of learning, educating, serving, playing, and loving. Sam learned while he was a student at Bluefield High School and graduated in 1967. From there he then continued his education at Bluefield State, and completed his MBA at Regent University. A lifelong learner and avid reader, you should see the condition of his bible, you could most recently find him spouting out answers to the questions of Jeopardy on a regular basis.

Sam was not one to keep his knowledge to himself. He taught the St. Thomas Sunday School Class at the First United Methodist Church for 25+ years in such a way that made even the simplest minds understand the preaching's of the Lord. As the TECO Coal Manager of Safety and Environmental Affairs he educated many miners on underground safety and environmental policies aiding in keeping them safe from harm. Anyone who has met Sam, can tell you that he has the heart of a servant. He served his country spending 4 years in the Air Force and fought in the Vietnam War. He and Lisa were married for 30 years and he served as her full-time caretaker before she passed away. Countless stories have been shared in the past days of just how selfless he was with his service, money, and time in acts ranging from small to extra-ordinary. Although he was in service to so many he actively served God as an integral part of the First United Methodist Church of Richlands and Trinity Assembly of God in Cedar Bluff. Sam also continued to serve others

even after he passed away as an organ donor.

Although Sam learned, educated, and served hard, he was known to also play REALLY hard. Sammy loved spending his free time fishing, hunting, golfing, traveling, and being outside. He played an active role as Poppy and GrandSam. So active you could find him playing hide-and-seek or even standing on his head, just to please them. LOVE is the biggest word of all when we think of Sam. He brought a light into the life of his wife Carolyn who he was married to for exactly 2 years. The same light gleamed from him when he spoke of his daughter Jillian and light as bright as the sun would radiate from him when his entire family was in one room. Although our light is significantly dimmer we will carry our memories with us as we continue on this Earth knowing our lights will shine as one when we meet again in heaven.

He was born in Bluefield, West Virginia and was the son of the late William Paul and Debris Riggs Lewis. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Lisa McGrady Lewis.

Those who remain to carry on his shining spirit are:

His wife, Carolyn Stevenson Lewis of Cedar Bluff, VA

His daughter, Jillian Lewis Gravley and husband, Michael of Galax, VA

His step daughters:

Myra Harmon and husband, Dustin of Denver, NC

Ashley Jenkins and husband, Frank of Richmond, VA

Brother, Bill Lewis of Jonesborough, TN

Sister-in-law, Stephanie Roach and husband, Billy and their daughter, MyKenzie of Bluefield, VA

His joy for living, his grandchildren, Gaige Gravley, Grace Lyn Gravley, Tex McCoy Stinnett and Stevi Nicole Harmon.

A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted at 11:00 am on Friday, April 7, 2017 at the Hurst-Scott Funeral Chapel in Richlands, Virginia with the Rev. Betzy Elifrits Warren and Rev. Randy Fielder officiating. Inurnment will be at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia at a later date. Members of the Casey Shortt VFW Post #9640 will conduct military rites. The family will begin receiving friends at the funeral home on Thursday, evening beginning at 6:00pm.

The family request that in honor of his memory and his selfless giving that donations be made to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, 106 Veterans Drive, Richlands, VA 24641. Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery

5550 Bagging Plant Road
Dublin, VA 24084

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Celebration Of Life

APR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home
1401 2nd Street
Richlands, VA 24641
<http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *SAM , IT IS THANKSGIVING 2018. SINCE YOUR DEATH , MANY MORE HAVE PASSED. THERE ARE MANY PERMAC AND RACE FOLK WORKERS THAT ARE IN ETERNITY NOW , MY NAME IS NOT HERE YET ! THE WAY IT LOOKS AND THE WAY THE WORLD IS GETTING , IT WILL NOT BE LONG ; BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT ! WHAT IS IT LIKE UP THERE ?*

DAVID - November 21, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ *Tom Jessee lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*



Tom Jessee - October 21, 2017 at 07:42 AM

LD

“ *Lyn Douglas sent a virtual gift in memory of
Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*



Lyn Douglas - April 07, 2017 at 12:17 PM

CS

“ *Charlotte Short And Anita Short lit a candle in
memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*



Charlotte Short and Anita Short - April 07, 2017 at 08:57 AM

CD

“ *I've known Sammy most of my life. High school sweet hearts. He
always made me laugh and a very kind loving person. I haven't
seen Sammy for years but he always held a special place in my
heart. I'm so sad but I know he is in a better place and I will see him
again. God bless all of his family and friends.*

Connie Parker Dinger - April 06, 2017 at 06:57 PM

KJ

“ *I remember Sammy from the neighborhood as a great , sweet kid.
It's wonderful to see he turned into such a fine, loving man.
Very sorry for his passing and my condolences to the family.
Dr. Keith B Jarrett
Boston, MA*

keith jarrett - April 06, 2017 at 05:06 PM

SL

“ Sam was a light in my life as we worked together at FUMC. He was a supportive parent as Jillian played handbells, always willing to help with whatever was needed. His love for teaching and his preparation was evident as he shared during Sunday School for so many years. His narration of the Living Last Supper drama held the audience spellbound as he relayed the story of Jesus' last days. I am especially thankful to Sam for his giving spirit when he cooked supper for my mother during her last year and for his unselfish giving in agreeing to a last minute plea to conduct her funeral celebration when our pastor was injured in a fall the night before the service. Sam was a true example of "walking the walk." I'll miss his smile and the joy he exuded. He will stay in my heart as a dear, dear friend.

Shelley Lallande

Shelley Lallande - April 06, 2017 at 02:10 PM

SR

“ Scott And Diane Ringstaff lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Scott and Diane Ringstaff - April 06, 2017 at 01:28 PM

DW

“ David & Angel Whitehead lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



David & Angel Whitehead - April 06, 2017 at 01:05 PM

GT

“ Gail Tatum lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis

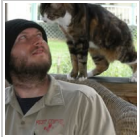


gail tatum - April 06, 2017 at 12:48 PM

GT

Such a joy to know Sammy. Prayers lifted for his wonderful family.

gail tatum - April 06, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ To Jillian, (and he was SOOOOO proud of you, always), Bill, (brother and friend, and talented artist), Mrs. Lewis, and Family: Please know that Sam was one of the best bosses of my over 35 years of working experience. He made working in the Bluefield MAPCO office bearable. He was also a very good friend to Ray, Cody and me. His laughter, disorganization, (in an organized manner, that is) , and his kindness are traits to be emulated, and never, ever forgotten. He served God , country, family, friends, and treated everyone fairly. I pray that God will bless each of you with comfort, at this time, and may God strengthen you now and in the days ahead. He will be missed by so many, including my family and me. We have been honored to know him, and to all of you, we extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy. Today you are in our hearts and minds, and forever you will remain in our prayers. And Sam, I know you are rejoicing, but please know, you will be missed. Ray, Charlotte and Cody Farris



Charlotte Farris - April 06, 2017 at 12:10 PM

IB

“ Irene Brown lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Irene brown - April 06, 2017 at 09:01 AM

ML

“ So very sorry for your loss. Sam was a great man. Love him & Lisa very much. From Melissa Stevenson Lowe former Church Secretary at the First United Methodist Church Riclands VA

Melissa Lowe - April 05, 2017 at 09:35 PM

LB

“ Lynn Turley Bruch sent a virtual gift in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Lynn Turley Bruch - April 05, 2017 at 06:54 PM

LB

I meet Sammy when he was stationed at Myrtle Beach AFB. We also attended Bluefield State at the same time. He was always a scholar and a gentleman, loyal & true. I bid him Peace.

Lynn Turley Bruch - April 05, 2017 at 06:58 PM

JB

“ *Jillian, Carolyn,
I am so sorry for your loss, Debbie and Myself
have been friends with Sam for years, we
grew up together and we will truly miss him.
He is in a better place and his memories will
always be with us. God Bless You.*

Jim & Debbie Ball

Jim Ball - April 05, 2017 at 04:19 PM



GH

“ *Gloria Hale lit a candle in memory of Ralph
Samuel "Sam" Lewis*

Gloria Hale - April 05, 2017 at 03:51 PM



BJ

“ *We are so sorry for the loss of Sam. We are keeping the family in
our thoughts and prayers. Cherish your memories...*
Alva and Bob Jones
Sumter, SC

Bob Jones - April 05, 2017 at 02:21 PM

BW

“ *Jillian,
Our deepest sympathies.
Your Galax High School Family*

Becky Ward - April 05, 2017 at 01:37 PM



BW

“ *Jillian,
Our deepest sympathies!
Your Galax High School Family*



Becky Ward - April 05, 2017 at 01:23 PM

TP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all the
family. Tommy shares many fond memories
with Sam at his TECO days.He was truly a
special person. May God wrap you in comfort
during these days. Tommy and Dottie Prater*



Tommy Prater - April 05, 2017 at 10:23 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the
family of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis.*



April 05, 2017 at 10:17 AM

PV

“ Carolyn my heart breaks for you and your family. Sam was a very special person. He was always smiling and had something funny to say. It was always evident when talking to you both how happy you were. Jillian you had a wonderful Mom and dad. They loved you beyond words. Haven't seen you since you were young at tazewell playing at pool while we played golf. I saw your picture on fb. You look so much like Lisa especially your smile and she was such a sweet person. You and all the family are in my prayers.

Pat Vernon - April 05, 2017 at 10:00 AM

EB

So sorry Carolyn and all the children,you are in my prayers .Love you all

Elaine church Batten - April 05, 2017 at 11:44 AM

JT

Butch and I enjoyed our times with Sam during volleyball seasons. Sam and Butch were always the best cheerleaders . It was a joy to call him our friend, he was such a fine gentlemen. Our prayers for Carolyn, Jillian and all his precious family.)

Judy & Butch Tolkey - April 05, 2017 at 05:31 PM



“ Carolyn Pyles lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Carolyn Pyles - April 05, 2017 at 08:46 AM



“ *Your West Lake Dentistry Family :) purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis.*



Your West Lake Dentistry Family :) - April 05, 2017 at 08:24 AM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*



TonyanEdgar Wicks - April 05, 2017 at 07:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis.*



April 05, 2017 at 07:10 AM



“ *Nellie Maynard lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis*



nellie maynard - April 05, 2017 at 06:29 AM

RK

“ Roy And Jill Kinder sent a virtual gift in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Roy and Jill Kinder - April 05, 2017 at 06:00 AM

JV

“ Love and Prayers for this precious family, Sam will surely be missed by all who knew him.



Judy VanDyke - April 04, 2017 at 10:31 PM

GA

“ Gaynell Armes lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Gaynell Armes - April 04, 2017 at 10:10 PM

PC

“ So sorry for your loss.
Pat Cassidy

Pat Cassidy - April 04, 2017 at 09:42 PM

RJ

“ Raymond And Karen Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



Raymond and Karen Jackson - April 04, 2017 at 09:37 PM

DH

“ SAM, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED IN THE HEARTS OF YOUR PERMAC CREW! . YOU STOOD TALL AND EXCELLED IN EVERYTHING YOU DID ; NOTHING WAS TOO SMALL ! YOU HELPED BRING OUT THE BEST IN ALL OF US AND SHOWED US WHAT A MAN OF INTEGRITY WAS ! I SALUTE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP . GOD HAS CALLED HIS WARRIOR AND SERVANT HOME WITH OPEN ARMS AND HEAVEN IS CELEBRATING YOUR ARRIVAL ! SAY HELLO FOR ME TO THE ONES THAT HAVE GONE ON BEFORE US AND TELL THEM WE LOOK FORWARD TO THAT GREAT REUNION THERE AND WILL CELEBRATE THE NO GOOD BYES AND DEATH BEIG THE LAST ENEMY DESTROYED ! TO THE FAMILY , ESPECIALLY HIS DAUGHTER , HE LOVED YOU ALL WITH A TRULY GODLY LOVE , AND YOU ALL ARE TRULY BLESSED !

david HORTON - April 04, 2017 at 08:45 PM

DH

“ David HORTON lit a candle in memory of Ralph Samuel "Sam" Lewis



david HORTON - April 04, 2017 at 08:31 PM

RA

“ Jillian, my thoughts and prayers are with you always. Your daddy is a wonderful man and his light & love will continue to shine through you and your babies. Just as your Momma's love and life does . You all have a special place in my heart. Always know I'm praying god's best for you and your family. Love Kim

Ratliff - April 04, 2017 at 07:53 PM

JW

“ oh sam,,,,going to miss you buddy...never met you in person, but talked a lot and email..rest my friend,,,jim

jimmy wade - April 04, 2017 at 07:31 PM

BL

“ Carolyn, my heart is heavy for you in the loss of your precious Sam. I wish there were words to say or things to do that could help you in this sad time. I am just so happy that you and all your family had this wonderful light that Sam brought to you and your family. So happy that the two of you were able to have such a blessed and loving relationship in this chapter of your life. I wish there was something we could say or do to take away this pain you are enduring. Just know that me and the rest of the Cole family love you dearly and are praying for God's peace and comfort to surround you, Jillian and all your family.

Brenda Lane - April 04, 2017 at 06:55 PM