



Robert "Bob" Jessee

July 25, 1921 - April 21, 2013

Robert Ira Jessee, loving husband of Nancy Elizabeth Thomason Jessee, father of three, grandfather of four, great-grandfather of two and friend of thousands, died April 21 in a Richlands hospital. He would have been 92 years old in July.

Bob had retired in 1986 as general manager of the Permac, Inc., coal preparation facility at Page in Buchanan County. He had worked for Permac and its predecessor companies, Universal Coal Co. and Paragon Jewel Coal Co., since 1949.

Bob was born in Richlands on July 25, 1921, the son of Ira Taze Jessee and Virginia Tempy Branson Jessee. When his mother died six weeks after his birth, Bob was taken in by John W. Joyce and Nancy Alice Joyce, who raised him as their own son. They were, Bob wrote, "Two wonderful people to whom I owe my life."

Bob graduated from Richlands High School in 1939, having completed all 11 years without missing a day of school. He continued his education at Emory and Henry College, where he received a degree in mathematics in 1948.

He took five years off from college to serve in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He was a ground-crew chief for a B-17 bomber based in England.

Bob was a member of First United Methodist Church in Richlands and served terms on the church board. One of his greatest regrets was that his health prevented him from going to church on a regular basis over the last few years.

He was a member and past Worshipful Master of Richlands Masonic Lodge 318. He was active in Tri-County Independent Coal Operators Association and the National Independent Coal Operators Association.

In retirement, Bob discovered golf. Because he had the mindset of a civil engineer, a golf shot was just another engineering problem to be analyzed and solved. He managed two holes-in-one in his brief golf career.

Bob and Lib and their friends spent many happy days on the fairways and greens of Wolf Creek Golf Course in Bland County. He helped develop the course's youth program and its weekly senior day. When he could no longer play, he enjoyed going to the course just to see his friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Tempy Branson Jessee; his father, Ira Taze Jessee; his foster parents, John W. Joyce and Nancy Alice Joyce; his stepmother, Opal E. Jessee; his foster brother, Robert E. Joyce; his foster sister, Mavis M. Morgan; his brother, Clarence Howard Jessee; his sisters, Allie Mae Wilson and Lola Kennedy Howard; and his half-brother, John Taze Jessee.

Bob is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy Elizabeth Thomason Jessee. In notes in his personal papers, Bob wrote, "She has been the love and the life of me during the many years of our marriage."

Other survivors are a daughter, Nancy Alice Jessee Henderson of Richlands, and her husband, Dean; two sons, Robert Thomason Jessee of Holden

Beach, N.C., and his wife, Janice, and James Randolph Jessee of Glen Allen, Va., and his wife, Leslie-Jean.

Also, four grandchildren, Patrick Randolph Jessee of Purcellville, Va., and his wife, Stacy; Kelley Erin Jessee of Falls Church, Va.; Christopher Matthew Jessee of Roanoke, and his fiancé, Brandy Gray; and Kristen Elizabeth Henderson Jackson of Council, and her husband, Neil. Also, two great-grandchildren, Tyler Warren Jessee and Claire Elizabeth Jessee, both of Purcellville, Va.

Also, special caregivers, Judy Stilwell, Angel Stilwell and Barb Coleman; and his close friends, Pierce Davidson, Ray Ryan, Don Dean, Bill Bandy, Larry Peery, Dave Jessee, Robert Lane, Ken Hogston, Danny Cochran and Rod Cury.

A celebration of his life will be held at a date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial gifts may be made to First United Methodist Church of Richlands; Emory and Henry College; or a favorite charity.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of the arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert "Bob" Jessee*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Robert "Bob" Jessee*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Mr. And Mrs. Dale Shreve lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Mr. and Mrs. Dale Shreve - May 01, 2013 at 09:08 PM



“ *Lib, Nancy, Tommy, & Randy - we were so sorry to hear of Robert I's passing - Kenny Sr always spoke so highly of him with the deepest respect and appreciation!! Tho they were co-workers our Dad first and foremost considered Mr Jessee his Friend!! Your Family is in our Prayers - Ken B Hogston, Sr & Family Jn 14:27<><*

Ken Hogston - April 29, 2013 at 08:10 AM

JM

“ Joe & Sylvia McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Joe & Sylvia McGlothlin - April 28, 2013 at 01:52 PM

FV

“ Nancy, Lib and Jessee Family,
Our prayers for your peace and comfort at this time of loss. It was a pleasure to have Bob and Lib as past neighbors. They were just the best! I have many fond memories of them, including watching Bob practice hitting golf balls in the back yard.
Also appreciate Bob's service to our Country. A true American hero.
Our love and prayers,
Frances Foy Vance and William (Pete) Vance



Frances Foy Vance - April 27, 2013 at 07:59 PM

PF

“ Preston A. Farmer sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Preston A. Farmer - April 25, 2013 at 06:56 PM

PF

“ *Preston A. Farmer lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Preston A. Farmer - April 25, 2013 at 06:50 PM

PF

Dear, Dean,Nancy,Kristen, im soo sorry for your loss of BOB JESSEE.... that man was a great guy. ill keep ya'll in my prayers....may the lord bless you with many gifts.love yall'; PRESTON..

Preston A. Farmer - April 25, 2013 at 06:53 PM

BA

“ *Bandy, Cline & Associates lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Bandy, Cline & Associates - April 24, 2013 at 03:06 PM

DA

“ *Danny R. Adams lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Danny R. Adams - April 24, 2013 at 11:00 AM

DH

“ Dear Jessee Family, Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. I had the privilege and honor of working with Mr. Jessee while an employee of my second family, Permac Inc. He was such a kind person we will never forget and I am honored to be one of the "thousands of friends". Deena Hurley

Deena Hurley - April 24, 2013 at 09:37 AM

AM

“ Aaron McGlothlin lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Aaron McGlothlin - April 24, 2013 at 08:24 AM

JJ

“ Kristen and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. May God bless and comfort you in this difficult time. With lots of love and prayers. Tom and Jen

Jen Jackson - April 24, 2013 at 07:15 AM

RV

“ Please accept our most sincere sympathy at the loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather. He was a fine man and we consider him a true American hero, definitely one of the greatest generation, hopefully you take comfort in this. Please know if you need anything you have only to ask. God bless you. Ruth and Dale Van De Ven

Ruth De Ven - April 23, 2013 at 09:20 PM

SK

“ SUE JESSEE KEENE & JACK KEENE lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



SUE JESSEE KEENE & JACK KEENE - April 23, 2013 at 08:05 PM

PS

“ Prayers and condolences for the family of "Bob" Jessee. I worked in the accounting department of Jno. McCall Coal Co. when "Bob" was general manager at Permac, Inc. He was always a professional, and a gentleman. He was an inspiration to me. I am so thankful to have known such a fine person.

Pamela Stowers

Pamela Stowers - April 23, 2013 at 05:02 PM

PS

“ Prayers of condolence for the family of "Bob" Jessee. I worked with Bob when he was General Manager at Permac, Inc. I worked in accounting at Jno. McCall Coal Co. "Bob" was always an inspiration. He was a professional, a gentleman and helped me in so many ways. I'm so glad to have known such a fine person.

Pamela Stowers - April 23, 2013 at 04:50 PM

BM

“ Bruce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Bruce Mitchell - April 23, 2013 at 02:33 PM

V9

“ **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 9640** lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 9640 - April 23, 2013 at 02:09 PM

JP

“ *Dear Jessee family -- I had the privilege and honor of working with Bob during my days at Permac. I worked in the Bluefield Office and of course Bob was GM at the Permac location. Bob was one of those people who impacted you when you first met him. He possessed a personal power ingrained with great humility and insight that was evident at first meeting. He loved his people and considered them as his family -- and they considered him as a loving parent. Sometimes he had to take a firm hand, but he always did it with respect, dignity and with love. Bob Jessee was one of those people you always heard good things about -- and they were all true. I know I'm just repeating what his family and friends all know -- my life is much better for having known him and worked with him.*

My prayers are for his great love, Lib, and his whole family.

Judy Pedneau

Judy Pedneau - April 23, 2013 at 08:13 AM

PW

“ Nancy and Mrs. Jessee
Sincere and deepest sympathy to you and your family. Your family was our neighbors so many years ago and you were wonderful neighbors, almost like family. Mr. Jessee always had a smile and Lib was so special, loved your family dearly. May GOD bless and comfort each of you in this most difficult time. You will always have the wonderful family memories that made your family so special. Will be praying for you. Sending much love and friendship to you and your Mom. Pat & Jerry Warner

Pat & Jerry Warner - April 23, 2013 at 08:10 AM

LB

“ Lindsay Reynolds Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Lindsay Reynolds Buchanan - April 23, 2013 at 07:23 AM

Jl

“ So sorry for your loss. I know this is a very difficult time for the family. Something that has always given me comfort is a scripture at Revelation 21:4, it says, "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." I sincerely hope this brings you some comfort.

Jill - April 23, 2013 at 07:02 AM

AS

“ *Bob will be missed so much. It was such a pleasure to spend time with him during the days I gave special care to him. ?*



Angel Stilwell - April 23, 2013 at 01:16 AM

VC

“ *Velma Conner lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Velma Conner - April 22, 2013 at 11:25 PM

PS

“ *Peggy Sparks lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Peggy Sparks - April 22, 2013 at 08:35 PM

SD

“ *Sara Dye lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Sara Dye - April 22, 2013 at 05:15 PM

AM

“ Mrs. Jessee, Nancy, Randy and Tommy and all the family, Kirk and I convey our deepest sympathy to all of you at this time of loss. It was a great honor to have known Mr. Jessee. He was such a sweet and gentle man. May your hearts be comforted with our mighty God's great peace that surpasses all understanding. Love to all of you.



Anita McGlothlin-Gibson - April 22, 2013 at 04:48 PM

JH

“ To the Jessee Family,

Our Sympathy to all of Bob's family. We know he will be missed. May the God of comfort help you during this difficult time and may the love of those around you help you through the days ahead.

We will have you in our prayers.

Love,

Jane Ellen Horton and Rocky & Pat Horton

Jane Ellen Horton - April 22, 2013 at 04:42 PM

MS

“ Mike Stumpp lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Mike Stumpp - April 22, 2013 at 04:16 PM

BN

“ *Bill & Vicki Nuckels lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Bill & Vicki Nuckels - April 22, 2013 at 04:14 PM

BJ

“ *Bill Ray And Naomi Joyce lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Bill Ray and Naomi Joyce - April 22, 2013 at 03:22 PM

BJ

Lib and family, so sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of Bob. Sending our love and prayers. Bill Ray and Naomi.

Bill Ray and Naomi Joyce - April 22, 2013 at 03:25 PM

AW

“ *Allen & Sandy Whited lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee*



Allen & Sandy Whited - April 22, 2013 at 03:10 PM

CS

“ Charlotte, Sam & Family And Anita Short lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Charlotte, Sam & Family and Anita Short - April 22, 2013 at 02:26 PM

JL

“ Jerry And Sharon Powers Lowe lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Jerry and Sharon Powers Lowe - April 22, 2013 at 02:04 PM

RK

“ Roy & Jill Kinder lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Roy & Jill Kinder - April 22, 2013 at 01:49 PM

SC

“ Slick & Bonnie Cook lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Jessee



Slick & Bonnie Cook - April 22, 2013 at 01:45 PM