



William "Bill" Reese Hess

July 6, 1927 - December 9, 2023

William Reese Hess, age 96, of Richlands Virginia, passed away Saturday, December 9, 2023 at his home after a battle with a brief illness.

Bill was born on July 6, 1927 to the late James Arthur and Nora Horton Hess in Richlands, Virginia.

Bill attended Richlands High School before beginning his career as a coal miner in 1945 after turning 18. However, Bill's career was interrupted after a short four months when he was drafted on November 8, 1945 to serve in the United States Fifth Army Air Force as a Corporal during the Occupation of Japan at the conclusion of World War II. Bill completed training at Fort Meade, Maryland, Fort McClellan, Alabama and Camp Stoneman, California before departing for Japan. Bill arrived in Yokohama, Japan on March 30, 1946 and remained in Japan for nine and a half months before returning to Richlands in February 1947. Upon his return to the United States, Bill resumed his career as a coal miner where he ultimately worked 42 years for the Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation, Pittston Coal Company and at Sea B Mining #2 in addition to Jewell Valley #2 and #11 mines until his retirement in 1987. Bill became a member of the United Mine Workers of America in 1945 and was a 78-year member of UMWA Local # 1760 in Seaboard, Virginia. Bill became a member of the Richlands Masonic Lodge #318 A.F. & A.M. in 1978 where he eventually served as a tiler. Bill was also a 32nd Degree Master Mason and

member of the Scottish Rite and the Kazim Temple. Bill was a member of the Tazewell-Russell Shrine Club and was named Shriner of the Year in 2000. Bill was a devout Christian and was a member of the West Fork Presbyterian Chapel and Richlands Presbyterian Church for more than 40 years where he served as an elder, Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher and the chairperson of various committees. At the time of his death, Bill had been a member of the First Christian Church for 23 years where he was an elder and member of the Christian Men's Fellowship.

Bill loved watching Virginia Tech football and attended many games at Lane Stadium with both of his sons and grandson. He was proud that his "three boys" attended Virginia Tech and was a lifelong Hokies fan. Bill fell in love with baseball at a young age and relished his memories from playing the game with his brothers and friends in West Fork as a child. He enjoyed watching the Atlanta Braves on TBS throughout the 1990s and 2000s with his wife and grandson. Bill loved watching college football on Saturdays and the NFL on Sunday. Bill also enjoyed camping with his family in the summers, most notably at Hungry Mothers State Park. Bill was an "old-time" country music fan and seen many concerts with his wife and friends over the years. However, what Bill most enjoyed was working in his garden. Bill planted a variety of vegetables every summer and sincerely enjoyed giving them to his friends, neighbors, and church family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Clara Vance Hess; one son, William Reese Hess, Jr.; five brothers, James Arthur Hess, Jr., Howard R. Hess, George P. Hess, John Marvin Hess, and Harry L. Hess; three sisters, Nanola "Nance" Hess, Betty Stevens, and Jane Hurt; maternal grandparents, John S. and Nannie Brown Horton; and paternal grandparents, John H. and Martha Stump Hess.

Survivors that will continue his legacy and cherish his memory are:

Son: John K. Hess of Richlands, Virginia.

Grandson: J. Brady Hess of Richmond, Virginia; and girlfriend Hayley Allison of Richlands, Virginia.

Sister: Helen Hess of Richlands, Virginia.

Daughter-in-law: Lynnette Hess of Newport News, Virginia

Sister-in-law: Peggy Hess of Richlands, Virginia

A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends also survive.

The family would like to thank Dr. Kenneth McVey, Dr. Cortney Farmer and the staff at Clinch Valley Medical Center and the staff at Legacy Hospice for their extended kindness.

Funeral services for William R. Hess will be conducted Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Richlands, Virginia with the Rev. Melissa Snyder officiating. Entombment will follow at the Greenhills Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Claypool Hill, Virginia. Pallbearers will be: Brady Hess, Craig Hunsaker, Eddie Cruvey, Frank Forrest, Jim Hurt, II, Josh Doud, Logan Forrest, Richard Hicks, and Steve Cole. Honorary Pallbearers will be Kem Owens, Perry Carter and the men of the First Christian Church, Austin Carter, Brett Compton, Gabe Hunsaker, Jerry Compton, Josh Hess, and Rodney Stout. Friends may call from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia with Masonic Rites being conducted at 7 p.m. by Richlands Masonic Lodge #318 AF & AM. The UMWA Memorial Chaplain Corps will

conduct a UMWA tribute and the VFW Post # 9640 will conduct graveside military rites. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church, P.O. Box 1307, Richlands, Virginia 24641 or to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Cemetery Details

Greenhills Memory Gardens

11800 Gov G.C. Peery Hwy
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Masonic Service

DEC 12. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Church
Richlands, VA

Tribute Wall



“ Hurst-Scott Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Reese Hess



Hurst-Scott Funeral Home - December 23, 2023 at 08:46 AM

BB

“ Brenda Brakefield lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess



Brenda Brakefield - December 26, 2023 at 06:53 PM

KS

“ Katrina Saxton lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Reese Hess



Katrina Saxton - December 14, 2023 at 12:46 PM

BB

We need a lot more young children to grow up t like this man lot better world

Brenda Brakefield - December 26, 2023 at 06:52 PM

KF

“ *Kim Kenny Fields lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess*



Kim & Kenny Fields - December 13, 2023 at 07:12 PM

PS

“ *Sorry to hear, thinking of u all.*



PEGGY Martin Sparks - December 13, 2023 at 04:18 PM

SA

“ *Susie Addison lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess*



Susie Addison - December 12, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ *TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess*



TonyanEdgar Wicks - December 12, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Reese Hess.*



December 11, 2023 at 10:47 PM



“ *Terry and Debbie Kilgore planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Reese Hess.*

Terry and Debbie Kilgore - December 11, 2023 at 07:55 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Reese Hess.*



December 11, 2023 at 07:55 PM



“ *Glenna Phipps lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Reese Hess*



glenna phipps - December 11, 2023 at 07:16 PM

DD

“ John, I am so sorry to hear the passing of your Father, may you and your family feel God's comfort during this difficult time and the days and months ahead. You all are in my prayers. Donna Davis



Donna Davis - December 11, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ Davie Horton lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Reese Hess



Davie Horton - December 11, 2023 at 04:23 PM



“ Kathy Miller lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess



Kathy Miller - December 11, 2023 at 02:01 PM

MH

“ Martha Huffman lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess



Martha Hickman Huffman - December 11, 2023 at 11:11 AM

JV

“ John and Family, so very sorry to read of your Dad's passing. May God comfort your hearts now and in the days ahead. Keeping each of you in my prayers. Judy P VanDyke



Judy P VanDyke - December 11, 2023 at 01:04 AM

BS

“ Sad to hear of his passing He will be missed by all who knew him 🙏❤️👤😞



Bill and Kelly Stanley - December 10, 2023 at 08:42 PM

SL

“ Oh the memories I have of this precious man! From being Sunday School Superintendent, to teaching, to forming the West Fork Youth Group. I could go on and on, but we all know how much he loved to serve his Lord and share his knowledge of and love for the Lord. Our heart breaks for John, Brady and the rest of the family. We can only imagine the wonderful reunion that was in Heaven when he arrived. I will fondly remember the last time he was able to attend West Fork, as he came through the door, he said, "It is sure good to be home!" He is in his eternal home now and is resting comfortably! We love you Bill and will cherish our memories forever, until we meet again!
In Hos love,
Sharon and Jerry Lowe



Sharon Lowe - December 10, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Donald Meade lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Hess*



Donald Meade - December 10, 2023 at 06:12 PM