



Jay Thomas Blankenship

December 16, 1952 - April 25, 2015

BASTIAN, VA - Jay Thomas Blankenship, 62, of Bastian, VA formerly of Matoaka, died Saturday, April 25, 2015 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. Born December 16, 1952 in Bluefield, Jay was the son of Toni (Cleone) D. Reetz Blankenship of Matoaka and the late Claude E. Blankenship.

He graduated from Matoaka High School in 1970 and also received degrees from Bluefield State College in Bluefield and East Tennessee State University in Johnston City, TN. Jay was Head Engineer at Clinch River Corporation in Cedar Bluff, VA where he worked for 34 years. In his youth, he worked with his father and two uncles at Blankenship's Gulf Station and Wrecker Service in Matoaka. He enjoyed fishing, hiking and generally being outdoors. Jay had been an active Boy Scout and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at age 13. He was a member of Matoaka Volunteer Fire Department and a founding member and former chief of the Grapefield Fire Department in Grapefield, VA.

In addition to his father, Jay was preceded in death by his beloved fiancé, Kathleen M. Joyce Bassett; paternal grandparents, Thomas Howard and Lora Cole Blankenship; maternal grandparents, Jay and Carrie Reetz and cousins, Charles Howard Blankenship and Edward A. Herzog, uncle Paul Blankenship and aunt Eva McDaniel.

Jay is survived by his mother, Toni; his sister, Sandra Palmer and husband Terry of Fairmont, WV; uncle and aunt, Charles and Rema Blankenship of Matoaka; aunt Ziola Herzog of Bloomfield, NE; niece Erica Palmer and husband Craig Bowyer of Greensboro, NC; nephew, Bret Palmer of Mayodan, NC, cousins, Sherry Lynn Johnson and husband Bill of Greensboro, NC, Ron Blankenship of Princeton, Jim Herzog and wife Vicki of Bloomfield, NE, Tom Herzog and wife Kim Schweers of O'Neil, NE, Carol Herzog and husband Steve Bruegge of Portland, OR and grand niece and grand nephew, Andrew Bowyer and Margaret (Maggie) Bowyer of Greensboro, NC.

As Jay wished, there will be no viewing and the body will be cremated. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the Rowland H. Bailey Funeral Chapel of the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with Chaplain John Blessing officiating and eulogy by Ray Mills.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation may give to SECU Family House, 1970 Baldwin Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, where he stayed during treatment at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.

Friends may visit with the family from 1:00 p.m. until the service hour on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. To view a video tribute to Mr. Blankenship, or share online condolence with the family, please visit www.bailey-kirk.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Memorial Service

MAY 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship*



Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home - May 03, 2015 at 04:17 PM

IS

So beautiful. What a gift for all of us who loved Jay.

Ima Jo Sizemore - May 04, 2015 at 09:00 PM

BS

*Wonderful video. Good memories of Jay and growing up on Easy Street in Matoaka
Bonita Hurst Sink*

bonita sink - May 04, 2015 at 09:35 PM

RH

What a great tribute to such a good guy!!

ROGER W HAGER - May 09, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ *Jay Thomas Blankenship*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM

BS

“ Toni, Sandi and family. We are so sorry to hear about Jays passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Jerry and Bonita Hurst Sink

bonita sink - May 04, 2015 at 09:23 PM

JB

“ Joan Belcher Bailey lit a candle in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship



Joan Belcher Bailey - May 03, 2015 at 07:19 AM

HS

“ Jay was one of the most kind, level-headed people I've ever met. He will be sorely missed. His help was always offered no matter the situation and he didn't have an insincere bone in his body. He cared about his neighbors and his community. I will miss his smile and generosity. Jay was one of the few people these days who would go to great lengths to be a neighbor and a friend.

Harvey Stowers

Harvey Stowers - May 02, 2015 at 05:58 PM

TD

“ My heart felt condolences to my dear friends. The world is a poorer place without Jay. I have too many wonderful memories to put them here, but I want you to know that sharing my life with Jay and all of you has been a pure joy and I will always treasure the Blankenships, my lifetime friends.

Ted and Joetta Davis

Ted Davis - May 01, 2015 at 04:40 PM

DB

“ Jay was a roll model in high school when there wasn't very many. Got to know Jay later in life riding our Harleys, same great guy I remembered. Our prayers are with his family.

Darrell & Sherry Blackwell

Darrell Blackwell - May 01, 2015 at 01:21 PM

SL

“ We are in Charlotte with the grandchildren for a few days and might not make it back for the service. So sorry to hear about Jay.....he looked just like his dad. Wish we could see you all but please know you are in our thoughts.

Suzie and Rick Lowry

suzanne lowry - May 01, 2015 at 08:12 AM

JE

“ I had such a great respect for Jay. He was so wonderful to my aunt Kathy. Jay was so full of warmth and love and he always wore a smile. It was a true honor knowing such a wonderful light in this life. My thoughts go out to his family.

Jessica - April 30, 2015 at 06:38 PM

ML

“ We are very sorry to hear about Jay he was a very good person. I worked at Blankenships Gulf Station for a few years. They were all good people. I have good memories of Jay and all the family.. Our prayers are with all the family.

Marvin Lawrence - April 30, 2015 at 05:40 AM

IS

“ Ima Jo Sizemore lit a candle in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship



Ima Jo Sizemore - April 29, 2015 at 11:36 PM

IS

Jay and I were born two days apart, and always laughed that we would always stay connected because we were born under the same sign. Jay was a good man; he was kind and caring, lighting up a room with his contagious smile. We grew up in a simpler time when children felt safe running up and down the sidewalks playing with friends, climbing the surrounding hills, and getting a bottle of pop from Davis Grocery, And on Sundays, we put on our Sunday best and sat with our families, learning what it meant to be people of faith. Jay never forgot those lessons. We lost an honorable man here on Earth, and Heaven gained an angel.

Ima Jo Sizemore - April 29, 2015 at 11:54 PM

PW

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Jay's passing. I have many fond memories of Jay when I was a teenager working at the Garage. My thoughts and prayers go out to Toni and Sandy as well as Charles & Rema , Sherry Lynn, Ron and the rest of the family.

Phil Wiles

Phil Wiles - April 29, 2015 at 09:30 PM

KF

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. God knows how this family has helped me along the Way, Jesus' path,. What a great witness Toni and Jay and Sandy have been over the years, to me , and my family. They were all there for me when Mom passed away. God is good, all the time.

Rev Kevin Farmer, Devin, and Denae

kevin Farmer - April 29, 2015 at 08:09 PM

AW

“ Many memories of Jay.He and my uncle Rocky were very close friends.He had a contagious smile and was a beautiful person inside and out.Prayers extended to his family and many friends who were impacted by his presence.RIP Jay.

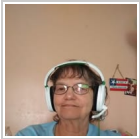
Angie Wess - April 29, 2015 at 04:43 PM

BD

“ Benita Farley Dishner lit a candle in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship



Benita Farley Dishner - April 29, 2015 at 04:25 PM



“ I went to school with Jay from first grade through 12th grade. We were close friends. He was always nice to me and protected me, I had polio and he was always protecting me especially when we got to high school and kids from other schools tried to make fun of me. I am so sorry for your loss. Tony if u need me for anything call me. You have my number. Sincerely Jeanette Dishner Bicknell.

Patsy Dishner-Bicknell - April 29, 2015 at 03:50 PM

DB

“ *Debbie Barbour sent a virtual gift in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship*



Debbie Barbour - April 29, 2015 at 08:28 AM

AM

“ *Sandi, Toni, and family...So very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and everyone.*



Arlene & Buddy Midkiff - April 29, 2015 at 07:40 AM

JL

“ *Joyce L Linkous lit a candle in memory of Jay Thomas Blankenship*



Joyce L Linkous - April 29, 2015 at 06:25 AM