



## John "Jay" Mills

May 31, 1930 - July 10, 2023

NARROWS, VA – John “Jay” Wallace Mills, 93, of Narrows,VA died peacefully Monday, July 10, 2023 at his residence. Born in May 31, 1930 in Stotesbury, WV, he was the son of the late Ile Mills and Okley Reid Mills.

He entered the Navy at the age of 17. At the end of his service, he returned to Kegley and began a 30-year career with U.S. Postal Service. In addition, Jay also sold real estate, obtained his Broker’s License, and sold life insurance. He also, along with two of his siblings, built and owned Jay’s Grocery where he worked for many years. He was elected to the Mercer County Commission in 2006 and served this position honorably and tirelessly as he sought to respond to all questions and concerns, happily answered phone calls, and talked to people out in the community. Thanks to the G.I Bill, he attended Concord College for several years. He was a Little League baseball coach, played church league softball, and was known as an outstanding pitcher. Jay “never knew a stranger” and was loved by many and dearly loved by his family. He was the best son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and father-in-law anyone could have. He was a member of the Kegley Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Illene Mills Blake (Warren) and his brother, Billy Mills (Mabel).

Jay was married to Beverly Bowden Mills for 67 years. Together, they raised

three sons; John Mills (Penny) of Narrows, VA, Wes Mills (Maura) of Princeton, WV, and Gary Mills (Tina) of Pembroke, VA. Their grandchildren are Brandi Smith (Dalton), Kelsey Alt (Ted), Adam Mills (Jessi), Joseph Mills (Kelly), and Michael Mills. Great-grandchildren are Averee Smith, Finleigh Smith, Christopher Alt, and Zelda Jean Mills. His siblings are Shelva Mills Mason (John) and Stan Mills (Martha). He is also survived by loving nieces and nephews and countless cousins who he had great affection for.

Funeral Services to celebrate the life of Jay will be conducted at Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home on Friday, July 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. with Chris McKlarney and Rev. Sebastian DeVaysa officiating.

The family will receive friends from noon until the service hour.

Pallbearers will be Adam Mills, Joseph Mills, and Michael Mills, Dalton Smith, Dean Blake, and Greg Mills.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Princeton Rescue Squad.

Burial will be private at Roselawn Memorial Gardens where Military Honors will be conducted by the Mercer County Veterans Honor Guard.

Arrangements by Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.bailey-kirk.com](http://www.bailey-kirk.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 14. 12:00 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>

## Funeral Service

JUL 14. 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



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John "Jay" Mills.*



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July 13, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Our condolences and prayers go out to the Mills' family during this time of grieving and loss. Bob and April Schumacher.*

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**Robert L Schumacher** - July 13, 2023 at 05:50 AM



“ *4 files added to the album J's Grocery*



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**JR and Marie Burrell** - July 12, 2023 at 07:43 PM

JB

“ I want to tell you Bev we are so sorry. We loved Jay and we love you. He was such a good man...best in Mercer Co. He always left us with a smile. Always so good to see him and talk with him. and Jay was an honest man. We took his word to the bank. So glad we had went to see him in April. We will be praying for you Bev and the family. God bless each of you. Marie and JR Burrell

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**JR and Marie Burrell** - July 12, 2023 at 07:21 PM

CB

*My condolences to Beverly and all his family! I loved beside them in Rolling Hills and Jay actually sold us out house there! He was a great neighbor, always smiling and saying hello! An honest, caring guy! May he fly with the angels!*

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**Connie Brady** - July 12, 2023 at 07:41 PM

VM

“ I remember Jay and I had a couple of leads to sell insurance in Jolo, WV.....many years back. We were in suits and fired up to sell. When we stepped out of the vehicle in town....everything went silent, stopped, and attention turned to us. It was funny.....and I do believe we sold a couple of plans. I loved Jay.....he was a good friend and an outstanding County Commissioner. The world is indeed a better place because of Jay. Verlin T. Moye

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**Verlin T. Moye** - July 12, 2023 at 02:23 PM

RB

“ JW was an engaging man. His conversations left you feeling good about things in general. The last time I saw him, 4 or 5 years ago, we had a conversation about his Aunt Rozella (my grandmother who died in 1934). He related one of his earliest memories of his family being at Shawnee Lake and his Aunt Rozella giving him money to buy ice cream. It meant a lot to me to gain insight about the kind person she was. I'm very sorry for your loss.

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**Rose Wimmer Bernardo** - July 12, 2023 at 11:12 AM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of John Wallace Mills, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....

*US Navy Veteran, John Wallace Mills, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - July 12, 2023 at 08:23 AM

TA

“ Prayers for peace and comfort.  
Ted and Terri Alt

Terri Alt - July 11, 2023 at 09:21 PM

KW

“ I am very sad to hear this. Jay was my friend for years. I helped with his campaign and enjoyed working with him. I had not seen him for some time and I am sorry. He was a good person and will be missed.

Kaye williams - July 11, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of John "Jay" Mills



TonyanEdgar Wicks - July 11, 2023 at 06:15 PM

DF

“ One of the best men in our community. He was always helping someone. Heart of gold! Fly high Jay. It's your time to rest. Prayers for the family ❤️

Debbie (Sparks) Furches - July 11, 2023 at 04:41 PM

BS

Oh, what wonderful memories I have of Jay when we were in the CASE Country Kickers line dance group! He had so much fun, and always ready to go wherever we were scheduled to dance. He was dearly loved by all the dancers! Thoughts and prayers are with his sweet wife Beverly and all his family 🙏

Belinda Saunders - July 12, 2023 at 12:46 AM