



## Russell Mitchem

June 29, 1954 - May 9, 2019

GLENWOOD - Russell Dean Mitchem, 64, went to rest high on his beloved mountain on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at home surrounded by his loving family. Russ was born, June 29, 1954, in Bluefield, West Virginia to the late Noble A. Mitchem and Helen Lusk Mitchem. Russ lived on Reese Harmon Ridge until recently when he relocated to The Villas at Lakeview, due to his declining health. He courageously fought a five-year battle against Multiple Myeloma.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his In-laws, James C. and Ruby Hodge Shrewsbury, sister, Ava Durham, and brothers-in-law, Thomas Allen, Robert Keatley, Jerry Bailey and David Shrewsbury.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 42 years, Wanda Shrewsbury Mitchem, daughter, Kelli (Michael) Horner of Grand Blanc, Michigan, and son, Derek (Laura) Mitchem, of Princeton, West Virginia. Grandchildren: Hallie Carr; Bradley Horner; Ruby Horner; Kyleigh Mitchem and Aubreigh Mitchem. Brothers: Danny (Debbie) Mitchem and Jeffery Mitchem. Sisters: Glenda Allen; Joyce (Danny) Thorn; Donna (Harrison) Sizemore; Phyllis (Larry) Johnson. Sisters-in-law: Connie Keatley, Sandra Bailey and Charlotte Shrewsbury. Numerous nieces and nephews who adored their "Uncle Russ". Russ's life-long best friend, Donald Green, and countless friends and colleagues.

Russell was a graduate of Herndon High School, Concord University and Marshall University. He was a life-long educator and highly respected teacher, principal and coach. He was a classroom teacher and coach in Wyoming and Mercer Counties and retired as Assistant Principal at PikeView High School. Russell was a true West Virginia outdoorsman. He loved hunting, camping and riding his ATVs and Harley Davidson motorcycles. Most of all he loved spending time on this "beloved mountain". A mountain that he generously shared with countless family members and friends. Russ was a very special man in so many ways: he never met a stranger; was generous with his time and talents; had a kind and loving heart; he was the special kind of uncle that every child needs; and was always there to help others. One could say that he was "one in a million".

The family extends special thanks to Dr. Chambers and her staff, The Angels on 4th Floor Outpatient Oncology of Princeton Community Hospital, the Ashworth Baptist Church family, Loving Therapist Alisha and Dawn, and Amedisys Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in Russell's memory to Ashworth Baptist Church, P.O. Box 5841, Princeton, WV 24740 or the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 414238, Boston, MA 02241-4238.

Pallbearers will be Donald Green, Melvin Caudle, Rick Byars, Johnathan Bennett, Craig Smith and Jason Bailey. Honorary Pallbearers will be Paul Gilley, James Hancock, Mark Godfrey, Benny Disibbio, Jerry Sink and Alvie Bailey.

The family will receive friends on Monday, May 13, 2019, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton, West Virginia. Graveside rites in Roselawn Memorial Gardens will be conducted by Larry Bailey, Pastor of

Ashworth Baptist Church, at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Friends attending the graveside service are asked to meet at the funeral home at 10:45 a.m. Special music will be provided by Barry Bowman.

Arrangements by Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. To view a video tribute to Mr. Mitchem, or share condolences with the family, please visit [www.bailey-kirk.com](http://www.bailey-kirk.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Gardens

450 Courthouse Road  
Princeton, WV 24740

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Graveside Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roselawn Memorial Gardens  
450 Courthouse Road  
Princeton, WV 24740

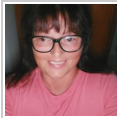
# Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Russell Mitchem*



-----  
**Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home** - May 13, 2019 at 07:05 PM



*Very beautiful*

-----  
**Mary Hyder** - May 16, 2019 at 05:57 PM

SA

*God I remember so many of these time he always made me feel like is son never let me be left behind from the age of 5 he loved me and showed me how to be a dad to my boy. Cause I didn't have one live and miss him*

-----  
**Shannon abram** - May 16, 2019 at 07:05 PM

SA

*Ps eat some biscuits with my grandma and paw paw clyde and Easton love ya*

-----  
**Shannon abram** - May 16, 2019 at 07:07 PM



“ *Russell Mitchem*

-----  
December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM

DC

“ Russ was the embodiment of what a person should be. Quiet, respectful, caring and always willing to help people out. I always felt he had my best interest at heart when I worked under him at Pikeview High. So sorry for his family. I know he will be missed by many. Gone but not forgotten.

---

**Dave Cook** - May 15, 2019 at 11:53 AM

RH

“ Wanda & Family

Very sorry for your families loss. I knew Russ when we worked together at Matoaka Elem School. He was a great guy. He will be sadly missed by all who have known him over the years. All of your family will be in our Prayers & Thoughts through this difficult time.

*Ronnie & Debbie Huffman*

---

**Ronnie Dean Huffman** - May 13, 2019 at 10:09 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Russell Mitchem.



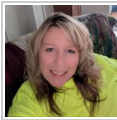
---

May 13, 2019 at 11:14 AM

RS

“ Words can't express how much I will miss Russ. I was always asking him how to do things. I was very lucky when he came to PikeView to work. From there we became best friends. So many fun times together with our families. I'll try to be there for Wanda and the kids. One day at a time.

Rae Shrewsbury - May 13, 2019 at 09:57 AM



So sorry Mrs. Mitchem you and your family are in our prayers.

Denise White-Akers - May 14, 2019 at 11:12 AM

CH

“ Sending sincere sympathy to the Russell Mitchem Fsmily

From Wilma Mitchem Hughes

Cletus Hughes - May 13, 2019 at 08:24 AM

VG

“ Wanda, Derek and Family,  
It's hard to find words that would do Russ' legacy justice. He was a mentor to Me and my son, Ian. But more than just being a mentor, He was one of the best friends I had. So many good times and good memories. His kind and generous spirit was one of a kind.No doubt he is sitting at the right hand of the Lord now pain free. We pray you find strength and peace in this difficult time.

With Much Love,  
Mark and Vanessa Godfrey

Vanessa Godfrey - May 13, 2019 at 07:45 AM

PA

“ Prayers for Russell's family. I knew him from high school. He was a good person. Peggy Lusk-Allen



Peggy Allen - May 13, 2019 at 05:27 AM

B(

“ He was an amazing teacher...he will be missed...thoughts and prayers to the Family of Mr. Mitchem...



Brandy Blankenship (Basham) - May 13, 2019 at 01:15 AM

HB

“ Heather Brown lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem



Heather Brown - May 12, 2019 at 08:58 PM

KB

“ Kayla B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Russell Mitchem.



Kayla B. - May 12, 2019 at 08:43 PM

KB

“ *Kayla Bowles lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem*



---

**Kayla Bowles** - May 12, 2019 at 08:30 PM

WO

“ *Wilma Odell lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem*



---

**wilma odell** - May 12, 2019 at 08:18 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell Mitchem.*



---

May 12, 2019 at 05:53 PM

RE

“ *Rexanna lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem*



---

**Rexanna** - May 11, 2019 at 10:14 PM

BG

“ Russ was one of the best individuals I ever met. I enjoyed coaching basketball with him in the 90s and going to state tournaments together, along with our children. We are keeping the family closely in our thoughts and prayers and want them to know we lost a very dear friend! God bless, Bill & Judi Godfrey & Chad & Missy Eddy

Bill Godfrey - May 11, 2019 at 07:56 PM

DC

“ Deborah Clark lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem



Deborah Clark - May 11, 2019 at 06:47 PM

SN

“ Russ was a wonderful man, one of the best I have even known. My thought and prayers are you.

Shelby Neal - May 11, 2019 at 01:15 PM

WB

“ Wayne Blankenship lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem



Wayne Blankenship - May 11, 2019 at 12:00 PM

SB

“ Sue and Mitch Blankenship purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Russell Mitchem.



Sue and Mitch Blankenship - May 11, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ Heaven has received another angel. I had the privilege of working with Russ , part of the "Dream Team" at Pikeview High School. He is one of the kindest and gentle man I have ever known. You will be missed. God bless Wanda and his family and friends during this difficult time.

Patsy VanBlaricom - May 11, 2019 at 10:23 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for family. God bless

Bonnie Coleman - May 11, 2019 at 10:20 AM



“ Bonnie Coleman lit a candle in memory of Russell Mitchem



Bonnie Coleman - May 11, 2019 at 10:15 AM

CS

“ Wanda, I am so sorry. Russ was such a wonderful person, and I enjoyed working with him. My prayers are with you and your family.

Candy Stanley - May 11, 2019 at 07:49 AM

BB

“ Wanda and family--my heart aches for you at this time but also rejoices that Russell's pain here on Earth is over and he's walking with the angels. I have many fond memories from our college days. He will be greatly missed.

*Becky Byars*

---

**Becky Byars** - May 11, 2019 at 07:04 AM

RH

“ ALWAYS WILL REMEMBER YOU AS BEING VERY COURTEOUS TO MYSELF N ITHET OFFICIALS WHEN WE WOULD BE AT PIKEVIEW! RIP MR MITCHEM

---

**randy hart** - May 10, 2019 at 11:38 PM

AM

“ Arlene/ Buddy Midkiff sent a virtual gift in memory of Russell Mitchem



---

**Arlene/ Buddy Midkiff** - May 10, 2019 at 10:06 PM

RE

“ You were always a special cousin and a heart held friend. You shared your mountain with me and that mountain has always kept me calm in times of trial. I will love you forever Rusty. Knowing I'll see you again when my time here is done gives me some measurements of peace. Thank you Wanda for loving and taking such good care of him. It's time now to start taking care of you. I love you all and wish I could be there with you. I'll see you in June.

---

**Rexanna** - May 10, 2019 at 07:01 PM

JW

“ Oh, those eighth grade field trips at LMS!! You could always depend on Russ to plan a great end-of-the-year trip for the eighth graders. You could also depend on the bus breaking down on the way home. Russ took it all in stride. I said many a fervent 'Thank You for Russ' on these trips.

*Russ was a great honorable man. He will be sorely missed. Prayers for peace and comfort for his family and many friends.*

---

**Joy White** - May 10, 2019 at 06:41 PM

TC

“ So sorry to hear this. Prayers for his family. He and his beautiful wife, Wanda, taught at my high school when I was a student and they are both highly respected and loved. He was a kind man and wonderful teacher. He will be missed. Mrs. Mitchem, we love you and you are in our thoughts and prayers.

---

**Teresa Sexton Cochran** - May 10, 2019 at 05:58 PM



McCeary  
Lee

“ This man was an amazing educator and mentor. Some of my earliest memories of school are of how he always encouraged me to keep reading and learning. He always had a positive thing to say and made sure people around him were doing well. He was truly one of my favorite teachers and he leaves behind an immense legacy.

---

**McCeary Lee** - May 10, 2019 at 04:48 PM

AR

“ Wonderful family I took care of his parents at Phillips care home prayers for each and everyone

---

**Angela Rowe** - May 10, 2019 at 04:48 PM

SG

“ Wanda and family, so sorry for your loss. Mr. Mitchem was such a kind person and always a gentleman. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Gallimore - May 10, 2019 at 04:15 PM

DG

“ Wanda and family. So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Debbie Greer - May 10, 2019 at 02:39 PM

MD

Greatest neighbors I ever had. Russell was a fighter. Best of wishes and prayers for the family.

Michael Davis - May 10, 2019 at 06:40 PM

DC

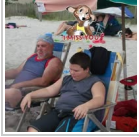
Wanda, we haven't seen each other in ages and I never got to know him really well, but I heard for years from people in the school system and your neighbors what a wonderful man he was in every aspect. Prayers for you and the family.

Deborah Clark - May 11, 2019 at 06:45 PM

BJ

“ Russ was a wonderful man. He was so mild mannered and was a good teacher in many ways to everyone. We are so thankful we were able to know him in our lifetime and learn from him and to be a friend of him and his family. Our sincere heartfelt condolences to your family. God bless you all. Steve and Barbara Jeffries

Barbara Jeffries - May 10, 2019 at 01:01 PM



“ *God Bless and comfort his wife n family. You will meet him again at Heavens Gates one day.. prayers to all.*



---

**Dana Graham** - May 10, 2019 at 11:57 AM

WM

*WHEN I MOVED BACK TO W.VA AND MET RUSS THRU MARK MY SON IN LAW, RUSS KNEW I LOVED TO HUNT, AND HE TOOK THE TIME TO TAKE ME ON THE MOUNTAINS TO SHOW ME WHERE I COULD HUNT, AND WHERE I COULD NOT, I WAS A STRANGER TO HIM, BUT I QUICKLY LEARNED THAT NO ONE WAS A STRANGER TO HIM. REST IN PEACE RUSS, U WILL BE TRULY MISSED BY MANY, THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO BE MY FRIEND THERE IS VERY FEW LIKE RUSS*

*BILL MANN, LASHMEET W.VA*

---

**william H. mann** - May 10, 2019 at 08:48 PM