



Weldon McKinney

January 31, 1947 - June 8, 2024

ROCK - Weldon Warren McKinney, 77, of Rock, passed away on Saturday, June 8, 2024 following a battle with lung cancer. Born January 31, 1947 in Matoaka, he was the son of the late Wiley McKinney and Violet Green McKinney.

Growing up in southern West Virginia, Weldon relished both city (yes, I just referred to Matoaka as a city) and farm life. Following graduation from Spanishburg high school, Weldon joined the US Navy where he spent four years triangulating and locating Russian submarines (he did not know he was allowed to talk about that until he saw it on The History Channel years later).

Following his time in the Navy, Weldon began working for Norfolk Southern where he became an engineer driving trains (or as Dad would put it “honey, you don’t drive a train, you run a train.”). While working for the railroad, he met the love of his life, Judy Carol Justice McKinney. Judy was working for the post office and Weldon’s brother (a fellow Navy Veteran and postal worker) made him aware of the young postal worker. Meeting Judy led to a 45-year relationship and 44-year marriage where they became the proud parents of four boys.

Weldon was a proud Veteran, railroader, husband, father, and grandfather. An accomplished farmer with a truly green thumb, he loved golfing, hunting, and

fishing. None of these made him happier than when he was sharing them with his grandchildren. He could spend hours out back teaching them to shoot, and he did (all the kids had to do was ask Poppa). He helped his grandbabies start their own gardens and instill in them the love he had for the growing. If you could sum Weldon McKinney up in one word it would be family. You could talk with Weldon about any of his hobbies, but what he loved talking about most was his grandbabies, and how proud he and Judy are of the family they created.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Jean Lavigne, Eldee McKinney, James McKinney, Billy McKinney and Jack McKinney.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Carol Justice McKinney; his four boys, their wives and nine grandchildren: eldest son, Brandon Warren McKinney, second son, Brian Weldon and his wife Mary Beth, and their children Ronan Justice, Aralynn Rose, Ashlyn Ryleigh, and Liam Iley McKinney, third son, Patrick Wiley and his wife Erica, and their children Aidan Wesley, Evelyn Rae and Easton Wiley McKinney and fourth son, Jonathan Rush and his wife Amanda, and their children Warren Daniel, and Victoria Elizabeth McKinney; and siblings, Betty Green, Wiley McKinney and Chester McKinney.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday June 12, 2024 at Bailey Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with Blaney Pridgen officiating. Military honors will be conducted by the Mercer County Veterans Honor Guard.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, June 12, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. until service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bailey-kirk.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 2:00 PM - 3:00 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

JUN 12. 3:00 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 Weldon McKinney*



Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home - June 13, 2024 at 09:07 AM

VL

Oh Judy I love the video. Made me laugh and made me cry. Patrick did a wonderful job selecting pictures. . Hugs to all . Love Veronica

Veronica Lennon - June 15, 2024 at 02:15 PM

DL

Beautiful love you all God bless you

Diana Luciano - June 18, 2024 at 03:54 PM

KG

“ *I first met Weldon when he lived with his Mom in the yellow building across from the taxi company in Mullens WV . Later, when I worked for my Dad and Mom who owned that taxi company I often drove Weldon with other Railway crews to their job sites and to relieve other train crews. I loved Weldon so much sorta as a best friend or uncle. So sorry to hear of his passing he always talked about you Judy and those kids he loved you so much.*

Kristin Garretson - June 12, 2024 at 08:55 PM

LD

“ Love Paul Ledford and Neil Drummond purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Love Paul Ledford and Neil Drummond - June 12, 2024 at 12:12 AM

LD

“ Love Paul Ledford and Neil Drummond planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Love Paul Ledford and Neil Drummond - June 12, 2024 at 12:12 AM

PT

“ We used to stop by when our kids were little and Weldon always welcomed us. He had a warm smile and kind words. I appreciated the admiration he had for his wife Judy, it was evident they treasured each other.



Pam Thompson - June 11, 2024 at 11:53 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.



June 11, 2024 at 06:20 PM

LB

“ Lots of love, Kristina Bennett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Lots of love, Kristina Bennett - June 11, 2024 at 06:20 PM

SO

“ Judy and family, We are so sorry about Weldon's passing. What a joy he was, we loved catching up with him at the family reunions. I can remember the first time I met him. I was new to the family and was nervous about being except. He was the first one I met, he made me feel like I had always been apart of the family. Every time we came I loved catching up with him and him giving Sonny his favorite thing pickled corn. You guys are in our thoughts and prayers.



Sonny & Karen Owen - June 11, 2024 at 06:13 PM

YF

“ Your Illinos Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Your Illinos Family - June 11, 2024 at 02:41 PM

JB

“ Judy and family. We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers for you, the boys and their families. God be with you and bless you all. Johnny and Sandy Bailey



Johnny and Sandy Bailey - June 11, 2024 at 02:22 PM

JH

“ Weldon and I were close friends all through high school .. We hunted and fished together many, many times .. May God bring comfort to all who loved him ... Jim Hooker

Jim Hooker - June 11, 2024 at 01:28 PM

EA

“ Eleanor & Edward Addy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Eleanor & Edward Addy - June 11, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.



June 11, 2024 at 10:13 AM

DF

“ Deborah & Chester McKinney & family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Deborah & Chester McKinney & family - June 11, 2024 at 09:45 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 Weldon Warren McKinney, 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, Weldon Warren McKinney, 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 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - June 11, 2024 at 08:38 AM

VL

“ *Brian I loved “Honey you don’t drive a train you run a train”*

Veronic Lennon - June 10, 2024 at 09:36 PM

VL

“ *Weldon and I are cousins and I knew him growing up and visited him with our cousin Mitzi when they lived on the farm across the river. I love the whole family. May God bless and give you comfort at this time. Veronica*

Veronica. Lennon - June 10, 2024 at 09:19 PM

TS

“ Mr. McKinney will be missed. I loved and appreciated when he would share his stories about his home grown vegetables and hunting. RIP kind Sir.

Tim Stuhler

Tim Stuhler - June 10, 2024 at 07:45 PM

RR

“ They are so many wonderful memories of Weldon but one story sticks out. My sister and I stayed with them a few months off and on and Weldon kept us all laughing and cooked for us and we had the best time with both of them. It was a special time with special people. We will miss this sweet and caring man so very much. God be with Judy and Brandon, Brian, Patrivk,, Johnathan and their families. Love and Prayers

Rachel Rabic - June 10, 2024 at 07:44 PM

FU

“ Frieda U. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Frieda U. - June 10, 2024 at 07:37 PM

JW

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God give you peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Joy White



Joy White - June 10, 2024 at 07:16 PM

TS

“ Weldon was an awesome man husband father friend and neighbor he truly will be missed. My deepest sympathies and condolences to Mrs Judy the boys their families and the grandchildren.
Sincerely, Terry L Sanders

Terry Sanders - June 10, 2024 at 06:44 PM

JN

“ Joe and Pam Naplachowski purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Joe and Pam Naplachowski - June 10, 2024 at 06:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.



June 10, 2024 at 04:33 PM

RM

“ Rob & Maria Martens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Rob & Maria Martens - June 10, 2024 at 04:33 PM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers.

Calvin Allen Baldwin - June 10, 2024 at 04:02 PM

RC

“ Rachel and Connie purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Rachel and Connie - June 10, 2024 at 03:02 PM

LO

“ Luhr Crosby, LLC Cape Office purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Weldon McKinney.



Luhr Crosby, LLC Cape Office - June 10, 2024 at 01:18 PM

LO

“ Luhr Crosby, LLC Cape Office planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Luhr Crosby, LLC Cape Office - June 10, 2024 at 01:18 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.



June 10, 2024 at 01:13 PM

DF

“ Donnie and Kathy Korando and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Donnie and Kathy Korando and family - June 10, 2024 at 01:13 PM

BM

“ Weldon was the kindness man. He was always so nice to everyone. He will be deeply missed. Judy and family we are so deeply sorry for your loss. Prayers.



Buddy/Arlene Midkiff - June 10, 2024 at 12:27 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.



June 10, 2024 at 12:21 PM

TG

“ Terry and Grace planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Weldon McKinney.

Terry and Grace - June 10, 2024 at 12:21 PM

TR

“ *The Rices purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Weldon McKinney.*



The Rices - June 10, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Weldon McKinney.*



June 10, 2024 at 11:41 AM