



## A. Neal

November 12, 1930 - July 22, 2012

A. Calvin Neal, age 81, of Ringgold, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on July 22, 2012, at Danville Regional Medical Center. He was the son of the late Arthur Elward Neal and Patty McDaniel Neal and was born in Pittsylvania County on November 12, 1930. He graduated from Dan River High School in 1948. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War earning the rank of Tech Sergeant. He served overseas and flew in a B-29 as a cloud tracker for Operation Upshot Knothole. In 1953, he flew over Nevada in eleven atomic test missions exposing him to a large amount of nuclear radiation that was the root cause of an immobilizing disability later in life. On July 4, 1951, he was married to Geraldine (Jean) Wilkinson, who survives. They recently celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary. Calvin is also survived by two sons: Michael A. Neal and wife Debra, and Barry S. Neal and wife Donna, all of Ringgold. He is survived by five grandchildren: Tara Neal Payne and husband Toby of South Boston, Virginia; Brandon Neal and wife Laura of Kralendijk, Bonaire; Joseph Neal and wife Crystal of Ringgold; Stephanie Neal and Whitney Neal of Ringgold; one step-grandson, Walter Henderson of Ringgold, and six great-grandchildren. In 1944, he joined Ringgold Baptist Church where he was an active member serving as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, adult superintendent, choir member and director. He lived most of his life in the Ringgold community. He owned and operated Neal's Grocery on 58 East for twelve years; worked as a farm manager for Ringgold Dairy Farm for six years; worked for Wimmer &

Wimmer John Deere as a salesman and assistant manager for eighteen years. He was a charter member of the Ringgold Jaycees who presented him with the Service to Mankind Award. He was a charter member of the Ringgold Volunteer Fire Department where he was its first fire chief when the department was organized in 1958. He actively served as a fireman and later served on the Board of Directors for a total of forty-four years of service. He was elected to serve on the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors for sixteen years, representing the Dan River District from 1971-1987 as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He served twelve years on the Board of Directors of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and for sixteen years on the Board of Directors of Danville Regional Medical Center. He was a member and past president of the Piedmont Sertoma Club who honored him as a recipient of the Service to Mankind Award. He received numerous other civic awards. He was a member of American Legion Post 325. Calvin enjoyed meeting people and showed his great love for them by his many acts of helpful service, generosity, and Christian witness. We wish to thank his special caregivers, Lucille Duggins and David Terrell, who have faithfully and lovingly served him for many years. Funeral services will be conducted by the Reverend Carl Burger and the Reverend John Groff at Ringgold Baptist Church on Wednesday, July 25, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will be at Highland Burial Park with military honors conducted by American Legion Dan River Post #1097. The family will receive friends at the church one and a half hours prior to the funeral service and other times at the residence. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Ringgold Volunteer Fire Department, P. O. Box 10, Ringgold, Virginia 24586, or Ringgold Baptist Church, P. O. Box 100, Ringgold, Virginia 24586. Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ We are very sadden to hear of your lose, Calvin was love and respected by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.He was a great person. he will be missed.

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**Keith & Freeda Haskins** - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Barry,  
Just happen to look at the Danville paper on line and found your father had passed. I remember Calvin well. All fond memories. My beloved grandfather used to take me to the store and buy me a Dr Pepper and Oatmeal pie. A simple pleasure that left a lifetime impression. Been many years since we left Dan River HS but as a Fire Chief and Retired Air Force myself I understand his service to his community and country. Bless you in this time of loss. I hope the Great Fire Chief can offer you comfort with the knowledge your father is with him now...where all tears are wiped away.  
Always your Friend

Randy "Bird"

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**Randy W. Hall** - July 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We are so sorry about your lost. In 2009 we bought your van for my mother. We were able to bring her home from Riverside Rehab. We are forever grateful that you sold us that van. It was one of the many things that Mr.Neal did to help someone in need. Our thoughts and prays are with you and your family.  
Lelia and Sammy Shelton

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**Lelia and Sammy Shelton** - July 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Calvin's passing . May the good Lord be with you at this time.

Katherine(Rene)WilesBuckner - July 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ We are so sad for all of you.We know fond memories will last forever and we hope they will help you through these difficult times.Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
Lucy Ellen and Bo Barringer

Lucy Ellen and Bo Barringer - July 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ Our hearts were sadden to hear of Calvin's death. May the Lord be with you through these days ahead.God will carry you.

Vicki&Jim Montgomery - July 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I can still hear his voice..the calm rumbling way in which he spoke..what a wonderful man...and uncle....when I was younger I loved going to jean and calvins. There was so much love in that house...and still is.....

Michele Ragsdale - July 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Dear Geraldine,  
I was very sorry to hear about the loss of your husband Calvin, I know you will miss him dearly, as well as cherish the many memories.  
It is times like these that we need much in the way of comfort and support, and I look to God's Word the Bible for both, and I find scriptures such as 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 which shows how the "God of all comfort" will give you the courage and the strength to cope. Psalms 55:22 assures us of God's love by allowing us to throw all of our burdens on him, and both John 11:25 and Acts 24:15 speaks of the resurrection hope, something we hold out for our dear loved ones.  
I hope these scriptures help you as they have for me. My thoughts and prayers will be with you in this most difficult time.

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**C. Griffith** - July 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Mike and family, So very sorry to hear about Calvin, our deepest condolences...our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this time. Pete and Carolyn.

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**Pete @ Carolyn Gammon** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of Calvin. He was certainly a very nice "gentleman" who always had a kind word. May God Bless the family as you go through the coming days.

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**Cynthia Wilson & Mattie Wilson** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ My thoughts go back to the days when Mr. Neal gave his time to all the neighborhood kids. He will be sadly missed by all of the Ringgold and Kentuck communities. Thank you BUBBA and Barry for sharing your dad in our young lives.

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**Sandra Fowlkes Brewer** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ My best childhood memories were staying Calvin's and Jean's. They were the perfect couple I thought,so loving and kind.

Calvin was a wonderful example for anyone and showed the right way to live.

There is no doubt he is not with Jesus. He looked forward to Heaven!

If you knew him, you have a wonderful memory!

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**winnie fillion** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ We will miss Uncle Calvin. What a wonderful life of service and friendship to so many. Rest in peace.

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**Blain & Lori Dillard** - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM