



## Earl McKinley Foley

July 29, 1951 - October 4, 2021

Earl McKinley Foley passed away on Monday, October 4, 2021, after recently celebrating his 70th birthday with family. Born on July 29, 1951, in Stuart, Virginia, he spent much of his life in Danville and was a graduate of Danville Community College where he obtained a certificate in electronics. Earl worked for many years laying carpet for Murphy Flooring and then as a machine operator for Intertape, from which he retired.

Earl is survived by his three children, whom he said were his greatest achievements: Sharon & Clay Smith, Tammy Foley, and Wade & Chrissy Foley; his five grandchildren, Emma, Wade Jr., and Samantha Foley and Reagan & Macey Smith who all loved their "Papa Earl". And his three brothers and best friends: Ralph Foley, Leon Foley, and Connie Foley.

Earl was an enthusiastic fisherman and was happiest when fishing. He could talk for hours about his latest catch, or lack thereof, and often encouraged his children to join in on that fun. His other great passion was for UVA sports and while any of them would do, he particularly loved watching UVA basketball games. He wrote down every stat and could replay all important moments of college basketball from way back. It is a sheer miracle that he did not die from excitement during the 2019 NCAA Tournament of which was probably one of the greatest days of his life when UVA finally won it all! Lastly, for those who knew him, Earl loved to tell stories. He often said his favorite way to spend his

evenings were staying up late with his nieces solving the world's problems and sitting at "The Garden" with his brothers drinking beer, talking all night, and playing horseshoes.

Earl was blessed to have many good friends throughout his life, but one would be hard pressed to find a friend as loyal as Joe Davis. The family would like to thank Joe for his great friendship as well as taking such amazing care of Earl during his final year. In addition, for those of you who know Wanda Oakes Shields, you understand exactly why this amazing woman would be included in this tribute. Although previously his wife, there is no other angel and friend as faithful as Wanda who stood by his side to the very end.

The family will be holding a private gathering in Danville on October 16, 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial contributions be made to God's Pit Crew, 2499 N. Main St., Danville, VA, 24540, or [godspitcrew.org](http://godspitcrew.org)

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ *Deborah Gables lit a candle in memory of Earl McKinley Foley*



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**Deborah Gables** - October 07, 2021 at 02:00 PM

TM

“ *What a man BIG EARL was and is. You will forever be in our hearts and mind. To Sharon, Tammy, and Wade and the entire family, we extend our most heartfelt and sincere condolences. Earl was loved by many, and he will be greatly missed. Please accept our sympathy, and may our prayers comfort you during this time. We will have to say that though we are not Cavalier fans, it was a great joy hearing the excitement in Earl after they won the NCAA Men's basketball tournament. Never seen many fans root harder for a team then him. It almost made you want to pull for UVA because of the passion Earl had for them. May God be with the entire family during this difficult time and GO UVA!*



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**The Meadows** - October 07, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl McKinley Foley.*



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October 06, 2021 at 08:46 PM

SM

“ *Sharon Tammy and Wade*  
*My heart goes out to you all. What a beautiful*  
*tribute to your dad.*”



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**Stephanie Foley McGrath** - October 06, 2021 at 08:19 PM