



Henry I. "Happy" Slayton Jr.

January 6, 1921 - August 26, 2013

Henry I. (Happy) Slayton, Jr., 92, passed away Monday, August 26, 2013, at Roman Eagle where he had been a resident for 3 months. Born in Danville, Virginia, on January 6, 1921, he was the son of the late Henry I. Slayton and the late Eula Brooks Slayton.

Happy married Chloe Frances Bailey on October 15, 1945. She passed away on October 20, 2011.

Mr. Slayton was a long time member of First Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon.

A graduate of from Hargrave Military Academy in 1941, Mr. Slayton saw action in both World War II and the Korean conflict. Slayton retired from the Virginia National Guard in 1974 with the rank of Lt. Colonel after 38 years of active duty and National Guard service. He served as Military Aide-de-Camp to four Virginia Governors.

After retiring from military service, Mr. Slayton served as the Business Development Officer for Bank of Virginia-Danville, now First Citizens.

Appointed by Danville City Council, Slayton served on the Industrial Development Authority for 36 years (secretary/treasurer), Danville Industrial Development, and Danville Airport Commission. In 1988 he was appointed to

chair a committee to locate the necessary property to build a family oriented park to honor the late Congressman Dan Daniel. After the 200 acre property was located, Danville City Council requested that he remain to help raise the necessary funds from the private sector to finance the project. All of the goals were met and the Dan Daniel Memorial Park was dedicated in June, 1992. In 1983, Mr. Slayton was appointed to the Virginia Committee for Employer Support for the National Guard and Reserve by the US Assistant Secretary of Defense. He served on the State Executive Committee and as Chairman of the Piedmont Region.

Also in 1983, The Kiwanis Club of Danville presented Mr. Slayton with the Outstanding Citizenship Award. In 1991, he was honored by Hargrave Military Academy with the Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Award for the Class of 1941 and in 2000; they presented him with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Mr. Slayton served on the Averett University Board of Trustees from 1983 until 2010 and continued to serve as Trustee Emeritus. In December 2001, he was awarded an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree by Averett as the first graduate at the first commencement after becoming a university.

Mr. Slayton was a Life Honorary Board Member for the Danville Lifesaving Crew.

On December 4, 2012, Danville City Council honored Happy with a Certificate of Recognition for his years of service to Danville.

Over the years Slayton has served in various capacities on other boards. Among these are: American Red Cross Danville Chapter (Chairman), American Red Cross Advisory Council for Virginia and West Virginia, Big Brothers, Boy Scouts of America Blue Ridge Mountain Council, City Beautiful Committee (Vice-President), Danville Chamber of Commerce (Treasurer and Vice President), Danville-Pittsylvania Heart Association, Danville Sertoma Club, Virginia Heart Association, Wayles R. Harrison Memorial Cancer Fund

(Chairman), and Womack Charitable Foundation.

He was also a member of Roman Eagle Lodge #122 A.F. & A.M, Danville Scottish Rites Bodies, Acca Temple Shrine, American Legion Post 325, and Danville Elks Lodge (Exalted Ruler).

Mr. Slayton was a former member of the Danville Golf Club, the German Club, and the Young Men's Club.

Survivors include a daughter, Jane Slayton Willis and her husband Steve, a granddaughter, Elizabeth Byrd Willis, and two brothers: Wallace Slayton and Garland Slayton. He was predeceased by a sister, Wendolyn Ann "Peggy" West, and a brother, Robert Gerald Slayton.

The family would like to thank to Recus Davis and Chris Fallen of Faith Caregiver Services for their providing outstanding compassionate care.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church and at other times will be at the residence of his daughter, 111 Wilton Avenue.

A Celebration of Life will be conducted by the Reverend John Carroll and Dr. Frank Campbell on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. from First Baptist Church.

Interment will follow at Highland Burial Park with military honors conducted by the Army National Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Danville Life Saving Crew or Averett University.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
871 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
871 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541

Burial

AUG 28 (ET)

Highland Burial Park
1658 Piney Forest Road
Danville, Va

Tribute Wall

SE

“ I am so sorry to hear of Happy's passing, I worked at Averett, in the office with Howard Lee, and got to know Happy through that association. He always remembered me and always stopped to speak when I saw him out. He was such a pleasure to be around. I know that the man he was makes you all very proud to have him as your father. I am sure he is among God's angles and happy to be reunited with Chloe. My thoughts and prayers are with your entire family as you surrender this great man into his eternal home.

Shirley Eanes

Shirley Eanes - August 28, 2013 at 11:19 AM

SB

“ Jane, Steve and Elizabeth,

I am so glad to have been a part of your family's past, having married Chloe's brother Don Bailey. Family gatherings were so wonderful at the "home place", and you, Jane, were born just twelve days after my daughter, Jennifer, was. The cousins had so much fun together. I hope you will be comforted by what a wonderful childhood Happy and Chloe gave to you, and how much they loved you. I am so sad for your loss, and pray that God will give you solace as you face the days ahead without your dad. Love, Shirley Bailey, Burke, VA.

Shirley M. Bailey - August 27, 2013 at 02:11 PM

 Kathy
Gray

“ *I am so sorry to hear this news. I will never forget Happy and Chloe and the many memories they helped me make at Stratford. Your dads smile was contagious and I never saw him without it. May your most treasured memories bring you peace and comfort the days ahead.*

Kathy Gray - August 26, 2013 at 07:06 PM

BW

“ *Our Sympathy to the family in your loss of Happy. A true gentleman in every respect. We saw more of him and worked more with him and Chloe when we were active in the ESGR (Employer support of Guard and Reserve). Peace and Comfort..
With Love,
Bob and Judy Weikle
Newport News, Va*

Bob and Judy Weikle - August 26, 2013 at 07:03 PM

 Kim
Lake

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Kim Lake - August 26, 2013 at 10:53 AM

 Kim
Lake

The Slayton men in 2005, Thanksgiving, Danville, VA

Kim Lake - August 26, 2013 at 10:55 AM



Kim
Lake

“ Jayne, I know your dad was in pain and was ready to leave this earth, but my heart goes out to you and your family. It is never easy saying good-bye. As you know, I never knew dad's father because he died when my dad was a child. So by spending time with Uncle Happy, I always felt like a little piece of my grandfather was near by.

I am so lucky to have known him and be a part of the Slayton family. We may be spread out, but our family knows how much we love each other. Thank you to Aunt Judy and Uncle Marvin for the many years of family reunions in Danville, VA. that enabled me to be with the Slayton side of the family. I have so many happy memories. Rest in peace Uncle Happy, we love you!

Kim Slayton Lake (& Ted)

Kim Lake - August 26, 2013 at 10:08 AM