



Marvin Dean Pickeral

September 9, 1960 - April 27, 2024

When Marvin Dean Pickeral was in first grade, there was a big prize on the line: A classroom ice cream party for whichever elementary school student completed the most jumps in a jump rope competition. Mind you, it was field day; there were tons of games and contests and fun going on all over the school grounds. In the midst of it all, there stood Marvin, signing up for the big one.

He got ready, crouched in anticipation, and leapt into the air as the rope went 'round. Jump one, completed! Jump two... well, not so much. That was that. With his one jump on the books, he walked away with little more than the satisfaction of trying. Imagine his surprise when the contests were tallied and the winners announced—and he learned he'd won ice cream for his whole class. Turns out, Marvin was the only student to sign up for the jump rope competition. So with his one jump, he won.

He went on to “win” at life in a multitude of ways, succeeding simply by showing up, trying, and persisting when any challenge arose.

Known affectionately as “Merv,” “Daddy,” and “Pop,” Marvin enjoyed going fishing, working on renovations, building everything from tables to sheds, listening to and playing Southern Gospel music, spending quality time with his family and friends, eating Breyers vanilla ice cream, and fine dining on chicken tenders and French fries.

An active part of local law enforcement agencies for 25 years, “Pick” served for eight years on the Danville Police Department before shifting to a 17-year career with the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office, where he retired in Dec. 2022 with the title of Investigator. Growing up watching the Andy Griffith Show, Marvin always wanted to be a police officer. He lived his dream, aiding his fellow community members in their times of crisis. Pick will be buried with full law enforcement honors.

Marvin was an active member of the Piney Forest Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he faithfully served in multiple leadership roles throughout the years, regularly maintained

the audio/visual booth, and proudly controlled the thermostat.

Marvin was born on Sept. 9, 1960, in Danville, and died following a brief, but valiant fight against Leukemia on Apr. 27, 2024. While he will be dearly and deeply missed here on Earth, his family and loved ones rest with the assurance that they will see him again in Heaven.

He is survived by his outgoing and adventurous wife of nearly 42 years, Karen; devoted and skydiving-partner son, Chad (intelligent daughter-at-heart, Juana); fishing buddy and creative daughter, Amie Knowles (still unsure whether he actually got approval to marry his daughter, Kody); grandchildren including future monster truck driver Colton Knowles, future hard worker John, and wiggle worm baby Amelia; caring mother Mamie; and fun-loving siblings Donnie, Lefty, Tony (Pattie), Linda Crowder (Clark), and Eddie. Marvin was predeceased by his musically inclined father, Leonard.

Visitation will occur at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, at the Piney Forest Seventh-day Adventist Church in Danville; the funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. Marvin will be laid to rest at Providence Baptist Church in Providence, North Carolina.

Whether you knew Marvin personally or simply through these words, the family requests that you do a single hop on a jump rope, then celebrate with ice cream—and remember that persistence, courage, and kindness can change the world for the better. We love you, Pop.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Pickeral family.

Cemetery Details

Providence Baptist Church Cemetery

5762 Walters Mill Road
Providence, NC

Previous Events

Receive Friends

APR 30. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Piney Forest Seventh-day Adventist Church
1543 Piney Forest Road
Danville, VA 24540
<https://pineyforestva.adventistchurch.org/>

Funeral Service

APR 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Piney Forest Seventh-day Adventist Church
1543 Piney Forest Road
Danville, VA 24540
<https://pineyforestva.adventistchurch.org/>

Burial

APR 30 (ET)

Providence Baptist Church Cemetery
5762 Walters Mill Road
Providence, NC

Tribute Wall

DS

“ So very Sorry for your loss ,my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time!!!



Deborah Boswell Smith - June 05, 2024 at 11:14 PM

BL

“ Prayers for family and friends.
Loving hearts will always remember.
Bonnie and Harvey Little

Bonnie Little - May 01, 2024 at 05:45 AM

JA

“ I met Marvin well over 20 years ago when he worked for the police department in Danville. we used to get together and play basketball at seventh day church on 58. I remember vividly him speaking about church, God, and his family! He loved them and was proud of them all very much. He was all around a great guy to be around and talk to. I'm going to miss his presence and I'm going to miss his calm demeanor. Rest assured, he is definitely in the arms of God, and in heaven.

James Adkins - April 30, 2024 at 05:56 PM

PS

“ Karen, I am sending my deepest condolences to you and your family. May God continue to give you the strength you need to get through this most difficult time.

Pamela Saunders
Danville Public Schools

Pamela Saunders - April 30, 2024 at 01:33 PM

JS

“ Karen, we saw each other just a few weeks ago. We talked about Marvin and the outlook was so positive. My heart breaks for you and your family and Marvin's family. May the comfort you find in knowing you will see him in the resurrection help you get through this sadness. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. With love, the Sundes.



Jay and Delores Sunde - April 30, 2024 at 07:56 AM

JH

“ Karen, Chad, Amy and family,
I wanted to extend our condolences to you and your family. I'm praying for you all
and hoping you will find comfort in the Lord. Rest in peace Marvin. 🙏

Jennifer Hyler - April 29, 2024 at 10:05 PM

OF

“ Oñate Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)
in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.

Oñate Family - April 29, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marvin
Dean Pickeral.



April 29, 2024 at 10:02 PM

CC

“ Marvin was a good friend and a devoted church family member which kept things
running including the people in the church. We think he was one of the pillars of
the church upfront and behind the scenes. Prayers to the family and the holy spirit
comfort them. Love you all.

Craig and Ruth Caswell - April 29, 2024 at 09:39 PM

GF

“ Glori, Oadie, and family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray
for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



Glori, Oadie, and family - April 29, 2024 at 09:36 PM

GF

“ Glori, Oadie, and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)
in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.

Glori, Oadie, and family - April 29, 2024 at 09:36 PM

RL

“ Our love and prayers and concern are with all of you, Karen, Chad & Juana, Amie and Kody, and the grandkids...praying that God's everlasting arms support you all right now. Marvin was such a gem. 🙏💖

Ruth Anne & Rick Labate - April 29, 2024 at 09:06 PM

LR

“ Sorry for your loss. I worked with Marvin at PCSO Investigations. The last case we worked on together was following up with witnesses on a homicide. It was hot that day and we stopped at Mama Possums. I bought Marvin a milkshake.



Ly Boyd T Arnold III, PCSO Retired - April 29, 2024 at 04:20 PM

JF

“ Joan scruggs and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



Joan scruggs and family - April 29, 2024 at 03:39 PM

DM

“ Denny and Wendy Snow. James and Michell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



Denny and Wendy Snow. James and Michell - April 29, 2024 at 02:46 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



April 29, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.*



April 29, 2024 at 12:25 PM

EA

“ *Ernesto and Patricia Alvarez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.*

Ernesto and Patricia Alvarez - April 29, 2024 at 12:25 PM

EF

“ *Eddie Pickeral and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.*



Eddie Pickeral and Family - April 29, 2024 at 10:51 AM

EF

“ *Eddie Pickeral and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.*

Eddie Pickeral and Family - April 29, 2024 at 10:51 AM

KN

“ *what a beautiful and uplifting obituary! Karen and family I am so sorry that Marvin has passed but comforted to know that he was a man of God and ready . You all will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

kathy nance - April 29, 2024 at 10:09 AM

VM

“ *To Karen and the family, Brenda and I are very sorry to hear of Marvin's passing. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need, please let us know.*

*Vince and Brenda Millard
Baylee Millard and Family*

Vince Millard - April 29, 2024 at 09:46 AM

KK

“ Karen K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.

Karen K. - April 29, 2024 at 09:32 AM

RM

“ Ralph & Delma Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Dean Pickeral.

Ralph & Delma Miller - April 29, 2024 at 09:32 AM

RM

“ Ralph & Delma Miller purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



Ralph & Delma Miller - April 29, 2024 at 09:32 AM

WV

“ With love, Dennis & Robyn, Tim & Vicki purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Marvin Dean Pickeral.



With love, Dennis & Robyn, Tim & Vicki - April 28, 2024 at 10:05 PM

CC

“ Dave and I are heart broken. Marvin was a good friend and a wonderful pillar and leader in our church. We look forward to spending eternity with our dear friend when Jesus comes to take us home. Praying for peace and comfort for the Pickeral family.

Cynthia & David Cockran - April 28, 2024 at 08:22 PM

EK

Pastor Ed and Cheryl Komorowski We loved our time at Danville and I especially enjoyed our 🏀 basketball game in the gym. Our prayers are with Karen and the family. He won't rest long. It's almost over. Jesus is coming soon. ❤️ love you all.

Ed Komorowski - April 29, 2024 at 02:33 PM