



Roger Allen Purgason Sr.

May 5, 1950 - April 9, 2015

Rocket Roger Allen Purgason Sr., 64, of 221 Fox Hollow Drive died, Thursday, April 9, 2015 at Danville Regional Medical Center.

Born in Danville, VA on May 5, 1950, he was a son of the late Norman Kenneth Purgason and Annie Sigmon Purgason, who survives.

“Rocket” was the owner operator of Rocket Rogers Old 97 Choppers and was a member of Dan River Church. He served in the US Army.

On September 24, 1983, he married Judy Chambers Purgason, who survives of the residence.

In addition to his mother, and wife he is survives by a son, Roger Allen Purgason, Jr., and wife, Lauren; a daughter, Samantha Morgan Purgason; a brother, Kenneth Purgason; two grandchildren, Bridget Lynn Purgason, Roger Allen “Tripp” Purgason, III; a father-in-law, Henry Chambers.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 4:00 PM from the Dan River Church conducted by the Rev. Scott Randlett. Interment will follow in Danville Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends on Sunday from 2:00-3:45 PM at the church and at the residence at other times.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers that memorial donations be made to the Dan River Church.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is serving the Purgason family.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM (ET)

Dan River Church
2805 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24540

Funeral Service

APR 12. 4:00 PM (ET)

Dan River Church
2805 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24540

Burial

APR 12 (ET)

Danville Memorial Gardens
510 Church Avenue
Danville, VA

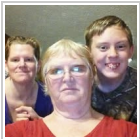
Tribute Wall

RG

“ *may god hold you in the palm of his hands , sorry for your loss .*

robert goodwin

robert goodwin - April 19, 2015 at 04:00 PM



“ *So very sorry to just hear of the passing of Roger he will be missed by so many. My Husband Grover Haymore has lots of fond memories of a great childhood and growing up in Schoolfield Community and playing with Roger in the park and play grounds. Later years catching up on memories at Rocket Rogers. My prayers are with your family and look forward to the day we meet again in Heaven. Rest-n-Peace dear friend.*



Judy Haymore - April 14, 2015 at 06:16 PM

JH

“ *Jennifer Hutcherson lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.*



Jennifer Hutcherson - April 12, 2015 at 10:48 PM

FL

“ *Falina Long lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.*



Falina Long - April 12, 2015 at 09:03 PM

DW

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers. David and Dianne Weatherford*



dianne Weatherford - April 12, 2015 at 06:18 PM

NK

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to the family. Jim and Nadara Kingery*

Nadara Kingery - April 11, 2015 at 11:00 PM

“ My own Father passed away today. To add to that I heard about Roger. In spite of my own loss I saw this link and had to say a few words. Roger and my Father Mike worked at Harry Lea Volkswagen when they had the Harley dealership as well back in the seventies.

I've only known Roger personally for about thirty years. Not as long as a lot of folks around the Danville area, but that's enough time to get to know a man.

When I was a kid riding whatever bombed out Honda I could patch together, Roger and Kenny kept me riding even though I was flat broke. To a teenage kid the ability to ride means you don't spend as much time doing drugs and other stupid stuff, so that was worth far more than they ever knew.

When I was hanging around waiting for free advice on how to keep a '73 Honda 500 from backfiring during WOT Kenny would send me across the road to get a bunch of hotdogs at Hop In and made sure I was fed.

When I got older and got my first Harley it was a Shovelhead bought in the days when if you didn't have an Evo you weren't cool. Didn't matter to me Roger knew what to do to keep that bike running for me. The things he and Kenny did to that bike are still making it go and stop almost twenty years later.

When my late wife Kim's bike had a hydraulic clutch that kept flippiin out Roger knew exactly what was wrong with it and told me how to fix it myself. The problem had eluded me for weeks and what he told me to do to fix it took less than five minutes. I was thankful but almost broke being a new Father at the time so I bought a case of Bud Lite and sat it on his desk at the shop. Shoot, you woulda thought I had left a thousand dollars on that desk when Roger walked through that door.

It seemed like forever I would roll onto that lot at 3:00 Saturday

afternoon when he was trying to close needing that one part that would keep my Shovelhead going and he would ALWAYS have it on the shelf and ring me up.

Like most of us I could go on and on. As I know all too well from my own loss there ain't anything anyone can do to fix this, but we all want to try. We all want to do something, but we don't know what.

All I know is that we'll all meet again some day, and we can start the good times all over again.

*Bryan Williams
Keeling, VA*

Bryan Williams - April 11, 2015 at 09:58 PM

PD

“ *Judy, Cathy & I are out of town but have heard the news about Roger passing. Our thoughts and prayers are for you and your children. Roger was always a friend and always made our day with his beautiful smile. He will be surely missed but heaven has gained a very special angel. God bless and keep you close. Pat & Cathy Daly*

Pat & Cathy Daly - April 11, 2015 at 09:31 PM

GJ

“ *Gracie & Jeff lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.*



Gracie & Jeff - April 11, 2015 at 08:38 PM

JM

“ Every Sunday that he was able, you'd see Roger and one of his beautiful girls, Judy or Stephanie if they were scheduled off work, greeting worshippers as they headed into the Sanctuary with a wide sincere smile. When Roger said he was glad to see you he truly was glad to see you. We had this running joke. He would throw his arm around me and say "I sure am glad you were blessed to see me today". Indeed, I did feel blessed. He didn't just make the proper noises when he talked to you. You had his total attention. You mattered to Roger. He was a true example of Christendom love. Go rest high Roger.

Juanita Moore - April 11, 2015 at 08:33 PM

AG

“ Roger was a greeter at DRC were I met him. He use to tell my brother and I that he could take us. We both would laugh, but Roger would too. He always had a smile on his face. He will be missed. Prayers goes out to his family.
Antonio Gattis

Antonio Gattis - April 11, 2015 at 05:43 PM

LO

“ My son Eric re dedicated his life to Christ. He and Roger (n others) went on a mission trip a couple of years ago. He was so kind and took interest in a 21 year old. He made a difference n invested his time in not just Eric but so many lives. His Smile will forever live on.

lisa owen - April 11, 2015 at 02:49 PM

MH

“ I was saddened beyond words while out of town to get the news of Roger's passing and am still in shock.

My thoughts are, and will be with his entire family.

I can only imagine their grief.

I've only known Roger for 14 years but considered him a good friend and will miss the times sharing stories and laughs with him and Kenny at the shop.

I'm so glad I rode down and was able to spend some time with him & Kenny last week.

I could go on for hours on how many people I know he's helped over the years.

He was always generous with his time and considerable knowledge.

Roger was respected and will be sorely missed .

The world is a better place, and my life is better for having known him

Ride on "Rocket Man."

Milt Hallmark

Lynchburg, VA

Milt Hallmark - April 11, 2015 at 01:27 PM

MH

“ I'm thankful for knowing The Rocket Man. He was a good friend. Going by the bike shop and seeing him and Allen was always a good time. He was always so proud of his family, especially of his grand children. I have been praying for his family that the Lord would bring a peace that passes all understanding.

Mike Harris

Mike Harris - April 11, 2015 at 11:00 AM

JP

“ *Judy, our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. Terry & Jackie Pleasant*

Jackie pleasant - April 11, 2015 at 10:59 AM

DG

“ *Dear Judy and Kenny ,
You are in our thoughts and prayers .Roger
was a blessing to all he met.
We had many good times
together.Remember that you are not alone
because
Jesus sent us The Holy Spirit to comfort us...
Sincerely,
Danny and Geri*



Danny and Geri - April 11, 2015 at 10:15 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Roger Allen Purgason Sr..*



April 11, 2015 at 09:50 AM

TK

“ *Judy,I am at a loss for words.Praying that God will give you and
your children peace,comfort and strength in the days ahead.You are
loved by many.*

Terry Keller - April 11, 2015 at 08:57 AM

TK

“ Terry Keller lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.



Terry Keller - April 11, 2015 at 08:53 AM

JM

“ Jim and I were deeply saddened to hear of Rogers passing. He was a great friend to us and will be sadly missed. God be with his family.



Jim&Vicki Montgomery - April 11, 2015 at 08:44 AM

DG

“ I will miss your warm and friendly greeting at DRC.... I know Heaven is much brighter since your there... praying for your sweet family,

Deb Graham - April 11, 2015 at 07:43 AM



“ Betty Hudgins lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.



Betty Hudgins - April 11, 2015 at 07:38 AM

HA

“ I'll never forget having the opportunity to paint the illustrations on his old 97 bike and the Dale bike . These are two pieces in my portfolio that mean so much to me. Thanks for the opportunity buddy. Rocket was a great friend and great man. He will be missed . See ya on the other side buddy.

Harry Aron - April 11, 2015 at 06:54 AM

CW

“ purguson family, my thoughts and prayers are with each of you, Roger was like a brother to me. Roger was a kind and loving person. charlotte williams

charlotte williams - April 11, 2015 at 06:53 AM

BW

“ Dear Judy and family,
I am so very sorry about Roger. Judy, I remember so well when you and Roger were dating and got married. We were working at good 'ol REMH then. So many years has passed....so many life changes. My son Danny went to his Heavenly home almost nine years ago. It's been so very hard. I just cannot imagine losing my life partner.
The Lord has truly helped me thru my grief with the help of my family.
I pray that you will find peace and know that you had many years with the love of your life. You will be reunited one day in the great and wonderful Heaven one day.
God Bless during this sad time.
Billie (Yeatts) Wyatt



Billie (Yeatts) Wyatt - April 11, 2015 at 05:18 AM

WP

“ Wendy G. Pryor lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.



Wendy G. Pryor - April 11, 2015 at 01:20 AM

WP

Roger was a really good man & the best man I ever worked for. I started working with Roger & Kenny on Westover Dr. & then for a while when he moved the business to 58 east. He was good to everyone & always smiling & joking around, he will be sadly missed by everyone that was lucky enough to know him & call him a friend. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of the family.

Wendy G. Pryor - April 11, 2015 at 01:33 AM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Star Red - April 11, 2015 at 12:33 AM

PR

“ Pattie Riley Owen And AL Riley lit a candle in memory of Roger Allen Purgason Sr.



Pattie Riley Owen and AL Riley - April 10, 2015 at 09:02 PM

EG

“ Roger was my son-in-law and one time and the whole family loved him. We have stayed in touch through the years and especially when my husband and daughter and I joined Dan River Church. We looked forward to seeing Roger every Sunday and he always had a smile on his face and offered a hug. I don't believe I have ever seen him when he wasn't smiling. And at the church I have also become friends with his wife, Judy, and his children. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him and loved him.

Earline Franklin Gosney - April 10, 2015 at 06:45 PM

DC

“ I just stop by to see him last week on my bike. I am glad I got to see him before it was too late, we was just shooting the bull joking like we always do. I compliment him on how well my bike was doing after he fixed it for me. I've know Rocket Rogers since I was a teenager I am gonna miss him. Ricky Lee
I've only meet Roger a few times and he was a nice guy and very hard working.
we are sorry for your loss
Dixie Collins, Kathy Marlowe, Teresa Lee, And Ricky Lee

dixie collins - April 10, 2015 at 05:52 PM

JF

I've known Roger since I was a teenager., bought a Victory from his dealership in 2003. He and his son Allen reworked my 1986 Suzuki GS 1150E 2 years ago. I would go hang out some at his shop while they were doing this. It was one of my greatest memories of Roger, he was so damn cool and just a really nice guy. I will really miss him. I just can't believe this happened. God bless his family. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jeff Fiske

Jeff Fiske - April 10, 2015 at 06:48 PM

CR

have not seen Roger in years but he was and has been a very good friend for so many years I cant count them. You will not hear harsh words about him because he was a great person and friend. He will be missed

Chuck Roach - April 10, 2015 at 07:54 PM

BA

I have a beautiful picture in my mind of Roger doing a wheelie at GWHS when we were in school together. Roger was a kind soul and friend to many. Godspeed old friend.

Bill Adams - April 10, 2015 at 07:56 PM

TR

OMG! Since Roger had his very first Honda 90, many many years ago, we have been friends. I will always remember, Roger and his frequent stops at the house for just a little bit of gas. I will always hold a fond memory of this guy in my heart! Love to his family, Kenny and his Mom. You guys are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Toni Ryan - April 10, 2015 at 08:03 PM

RA

I am so sorry to hear of Rogers passing! He was such a wonderful person and his smile would light up the room when he entered. His kindness was shared with many and I can only hope that the family can quickly find peace and comfort dealing with their loss.

Randy Alderson - April 12, 2015 at 07:19 PM

MS

A mentor and a true friend. You will truly be missed...So long ole buddy.

Mike Scott - April 12, 2015 at 07:38 PM

LP

Our sympathy to Roger's family at this difficult time. Our prayers are with you.

Dale & Leah Pierce

L Pierce - April 13, 2015 at 10:48 AM