



Wilson Lewis Motley

January 22, 1923 - March 31, 2018

Wilson Lewis Motley, son of the late Benjamin Lewis Motley and Evelyn Astin Motley passed away Saturday, March 31, 2018 . Mr. Motley was born in Danville, Virginia on January 22, 1923 and lived most of his life in Pittsylvania County Virginia. He grew up on a bright leaf tobacco farm and graduated in 1940 from Whitmell Farm Life High School. He worked for Dan River Mills before being drafted into the United States Army under General Hodges, serving in England, France, Belgium, and Holland. His ordnance unit also served in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Germany.

After he returned from World War II, he attended Virginia Tech receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics. Lewis later returned to Tech, earning a Master's Degree in Education. He became a vocational agriculture instructor, teaching in Virginia high schools for 34 years. He taught veterans at Woolwine High School and Halifax High School. He taught eight years at Appomattox High School, and then returned to Pittsylvania County where he taught vocational agriculture at Dan River High School. He worked with the Young Farmer's Organization and the FFA.

In 1958, Lewis married the former Ethel Spradlin of Bedford County, Virginia. Surviving in addition to his wife are three children, Rose Motley Abbott (David) of Apex, North Carolina, Douglas Lee Motley (Terri) of Ringgold, Virginia and Brenda Motley Newman (Donald) of Reidsville, North Carolina. Also surviving

are six grandchildren, Jessica Abbott of Davis, California, Benjamin Abbott of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Stuart Motley (Monica) of Ringgold, Virginia, Tyler Motley of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Alex Newman (Erika) of Palmdale, California, and Jacob Newman of Charlotte, North Carolina; two great grandchildren, Miley Rae Motley and Allison Grace Motley of Ringgold, Virginia.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by two sisters Daisy Anna Eatherton and Lillian Annette Motley, and brothers Ray Wesley Motley, Earl Lee Motley, and Herbert Wayne Motley. Lewis was the oldest and last surviving member of his generation.

Mr. Motley was a faithful member of Calvary United Methodist Church and a charter member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church where he served on the Administrative Board, as a choir member, and taught Sunday School for more than 40 years. He was a member of the United Methodist Men, participated in various outreach ministries such as God's Storehouse, tutoring, mission trips and served on a variety of committees.

He was an active member of the Pamplin Ruritan Club and the Dan River Ruritan Club for 60 plus years where he often served as president or secretary. He was chairman of the calendar committee for more than 40 years. In 1997, Lewis received the Citizen of the Year Award. In 2006, he received an award for dedicated service to the community and to Ruritans. In 2012, he was made an Honorary member by the Ruritans. He was a member of AARP and active in the Pittsylvania County Retired Teachers Association.

Lewis enjoyed gardening, reading, bowling, volunteer work, and spending time with family. Following retirement, he traveled throughout the United States and to Israel.

Lewis had been in declining health for six years. The family wishes to thank all of the staff at Roman Eagle Nursing Home for their dedicated compassionate care.

The family will receive friends at St. Luke's United Methodist Church from 1:30 to 2:45pm on Tuesday, April 3. The funeral service will follow at 3 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church with the Reverend Susan Hannah officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Burial Park with military honors by the US Army.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Luke's UMC at 3090 N. Main St. Danville, Va. 24540 or Ringgold Volunteer Fire & Rescue at P.O. Box 10, Ringgold, Va. 24586.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main is respectfully serving the Motley family.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

St. Lukes United Methodist Church
3090 North Main St
Danville, VA

Funeral Service

APR 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Lukes United Methodist Church
3090 North Main St
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wilson Lewis Motley.*



April 03, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wilson Lewis Motley.*



April 03, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ *Mr, Motley was a good teacher & a loving family man. Rose & i went to school together & spent many hours laughing & sharing with our families and Nancy Bennett, Debra Houser, & Illeana Keller. God bless the family & comfort you all.*

Susan R. Fleming - April 02, 2018 at 04:09 PM



“ *When Doris and I came to St. Luke's in 1998, Lewis and Ethel were the first people to welcome us. It was an honor to have known Lewis and work with him. We extend our sympathy to Ethel and the family.*

John Capito - April 02, 2018 at 01:01 PM



“ *Ehtel, sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and the family.*
Rodney & Lori Dearing

Rodney Dearing - April 01, 2018 at 11:39 PM

“ As I was waiting for Church services to begin this morning. I was reading the Danville obituaries...my heart dropped. There was Lewis name there. My heart and mind raced back 42 years to High School where the most kindest, caring Christian Gentleman that I ever had the privilege of knowing was my teacher, mentor and friend. He inspired me to accomplish more. He was my coach when I went to the State FFA Public Speaking Contest twice. I saw the disappointment in him at the judges when he knew I won the first year. He encouraged me to never give up and went back the second year. I lost that one fair and square. I let "Luke" Down. But he never said a discouraging word. That was his character. I sent many hours with him talking, driving and never knew he was in the Army. He never mentioned it. I figure he left the scars of war in Germany and in the shadows of his heart. I never saw him lose his temper and was a quite man of character and faith. He never knew this but I emulated his calm demeanor during my career. He would have been proud to know his mentor ship sent me off to be the Fire Chief of the Largest Fire Department in the Navy and a Command Fire Chief for the Air Force. Retired from both with honor and integrity that "Luke" would appreciate. I owe so much of it to him. You never know the seed you plant and how it will grow to affect those around you in life. "Luke" was a great gardener!. Just this year I reached out to thank him and found he was in an assisted living community. It was a lesson learned we should be more prompt in thanking people for there help along the way. I hope his wife was able to convey my appreciation to him. As I sat in Church this Easter Morning my sad heart went to gladness. Because this morning Lewis was in heaven to celebrate Easter with our Lord and Savior. I am sure Jesus was glad to see him. I hope he told Lewis how much he meant to me. I am sure he did. If not.. I will tell him myself when I see him again! God Bless his family during this difficult time... But know "Luke" has had a life well lived. Thank You Luke!!

Randy Hall, SmSgt USAF, Fire Chief, First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services Retired

Middleburg, Florida

Randy Hall - April 01, 2018 at 05:02 PM