



Joseph Preston “Joe” Davidson Jr.

March 16, 1921 - October 2, 2020

Joseph “Joe” Preston Davidson Jr., 99.5, of Bluefield, WV renounced his citizenship to this planet we call earth and went to be with his Heavenly Father on October 2, 2020 at 8:30am. He carried the legacy and heritage of being the oldest living Davidson. These were the Davidsons that founded the city of Bluefield. Joe Davidson’s fourth great grandparents, John Goolman and Mary Draper Davidson, were sitting on a hill where Central Jr. High School was located and before that Bluefield High School. Mary was given the title of postmaster for the town and was required by the U.S. Post Office to have a name in order for mail to be delivered. Observing that the landscape was blue from “chicory” in bloom, she exclaimed, “Oh look at the pretty blue fields”, thus the town came to be known as Bluefield. Joe’s third great grandfather, Joseph Davidson, (son of John Goolman Davidson), built the Davidson Cabin in 1811, which is currently located at Bluefield Stadium Park.

Joe was born in Bluefield, VA to his father Joseph Preston Davidson, (a farmer) and mother Ruby Lee Suiter Davidson, (a school teacher) on March 16, 1921. He had a stepmother, Sally Litz Davidson. She was an Opera Singer in New York, NY. She sung in many famous operas and also performed at New York’s Waldorf Astoria for President Coolidge. Joe worked at Cecil Mullens gas station from 1939-1942 and after that enlisted in the Army Aircorp but only served about 6 months when he was called home to run the farm because his father passed away. In 1946, Joe began working for Andy Clark Ford as the parts manager. He then moved to Bluefield, WV to make a better life with his wife and daughter in 1951 where he would remain for the rest of his life. Joe retired in 1986 after working with Andy Clark for 40 years. He was a member of First Methodist Church of Bluefield, VA.

Joe would most likely be seen with a wad of chewing tobacco in his mouth, wearing his glasses just over the tip of his nose, tending his bees. He loved his sports; was a huge WVU Mountaineers fan as well as an Atlanta Braves baseball fan. He was also an avid gardener and jack of all trades as a mechanic, carpenter, plumber and electrician. He loved making burgers on the grill with his family while drinking a nice cold glass of buttermilk with pepper in it. He was known for exemplifying an amazing amount of patience and loved visiting family and friends any opportunity he could.

Joe is survived by his two grandsons, John Joseph Earls of Atlanta, GA and John Frederick Earls III of Bluefield, WV; great granddaughter, Kendra Jade Earls and numerous other nephews and nieces. A very special thank you to Kim Bishop for being 'Bigdaddys' caretaker for all these years and the fine young man 'Doodlebug'.

Joe is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia "Ginny" Wagner Davidson; daughter, Ruby Davidson Earls; brother, Suiter Crocket Davidson.

His presence will be greatly missed by his family and all those he touched in his life.

Visitation and Funeral services will be held at Mercer Funeral & Crematory this Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 1:00pm with a procession to the gravesite after at 2:00pm.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting <http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com> Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Joseph "Joe" Davidson. They are asking everyone to abide by the social distancing rules and wearing masks.

Events

OCT **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

7
Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV, US, 24701

OCT **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

7
Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV, US, 24701

Comments



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Papa Joe was a wonderful and interesting man. We loved to visit him and talk sports. He was so sharp. I always loved making him a german chocolate cake for his birthday. At Christmas it was so fun going by to see him in his red shirt. He always told us he only wore it on Christmas day. Your family means so much to us. Your mom was so special and it was such a pleasure having your family as neighbors and friends. I still miss going up to mom's and not seeing Ruby outside waving to us as we went by. We have so many wonderful memories from the day they brought your mom and dad's house up the hill. That was a sight to see. We love all of you. Joe and John you are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you both. Take care. Geneva Shumate, Gloria and Steve Dilts.

Gloria Dilts - October 07, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time, May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Joseph Preston Davidson, Jr., give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Army Air Corp Veteran, Joseph Preston Davidson, Jr., is “A True American Hero”
God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Millitary Museum - October 07, 2020 at 07:32 AM



“ I grew up knowing Joe and Virginia through Thelma and Floyd Wagner. Ginny helped me pick out my first bowling ball at Mountaineer Lanes. My father was good friends with Joe and always got honey from him After my father passed, Joe and Ruby came by one day when we were selling off stuff from the home-place. Ruby and Joe went everywhere together and this time she had had thyroid surgery. Unfortunately, she passed shortly afterwards, joe was an interesting guy with a history and long life. My condolences go out to his other family members, and I am sorry I never got to know you. Joe live a great, full life.

Randy Shutt, Johnson City, TN - October 07, 2020 at 03:33 AM



“ Joe and I were 2nd cousins. His grandmother, Elizabeth (known as Lizzie) Miller Davidson was an older sister to my grandfather, W. T. Miller. They grew up on the family farm at White Gate, in Giles County. The first time I met Joe was in March 2014 just a few days after he celebrated # 93. I remember hearing my late father speak of Joe but I was not aware that he was still living. Another cousin to both me and Joe, Maryanne Francis Davidson from Bland Co., had told me about him earlier and that she had recently visited him. She said he was an interesting person to talk with so I made plans for my visit. We were discussing his recent birthday and he informed me that he never planned to live as long as he had but that it just happened. I told him that he was in good enough shape to make it to 100 and he responded with a "I hope so". I asked him if he had any health problems and he stated that he did not and he went to the Dr. once a year for a checkup. He stated that the Dr. always told him that he was in better shape than he was! And he continued to tell him that every year! The last time I visited with Joe was just a few days before his celebrating # 99 and I told him he just needed one more and he could have a big party. He stated that he was looking forward to # 100. With the exception of my first visit I always took him a home cooked meal that my wife had prepared for him and he always was very appreciative of that. We always discussed a large number of subjects on each visit and I always enjoying my twice a year visits with him. I will miss him a lot.

May God continue to bless his grandsons as they adjust to their loss.

Ernie Miller

Ernie Miller - October 06, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ May you rest in peace



Barb Starling - October 05, 2020 at 04:18 PM