



Aaron Saunders,

March 7, 1954 - October 11, 2011

Bluefield, WV- Aaron Lamar Saunders, Jr., 57, of Bluefield, WV, died Tuesday October 11, 2011. He was born March 7, 1954 in Bluefield, VA to the late Aaron Saunders, Sr. and Nellie Saunders. He was a 1972 graduate of Graham High School and a 1976 graduate of Bluefield State College. Aaron never met a stranger. His outgoing manner and genuine interest in the “sales” dynamic, along with the work ethic he learned at home, had helped the BSC graduate enjoy a successful career as an entrepreneur, corporate executive, bank board chairman, and commercial real estate owner/broker. His list of accomplishments began at Carter Machinery in Bluefield while attending college. In the 1980’s, he was employed by Parker Hannifin Corporation as a Division Manager. This endeavor led to his President/Ownership of Hydraulic Pneumatic Mart in Arizona. Aaron decided to expand his business interests to include real estate and banking. After acquiring a real estate and broker license, he became Owner/President of MacArthur Realty Group and COSP Properties, Inc. in Arizona. His realty group worked diligently to help low income families to obtain financial backing to purchase homes. After he joined to Board of Directors of Valley Bank (AZ) he and a few colleagues formed Gold Canyon Bank, also in Arizona, where he became Chairman of the Board. Other affiliations include Grand Canyon Minority Business Development Council, Phoenix 100 Rotary Club, Governor’s Small Business Council, Governor’s Leadership Council, and the Arizona Business Leadership Association. Upon returning to his hometown of Bluefield, he was asked to

join the Board of Governors at Bluefield State College and the Intermodal Committee. He also was interim Director of the Wade Center. Survivors include his twins, age 13, Nicholas Spencer and Courtney Caroline and their mother, Diane Kotula, all of AZ; his mother, Nellie Saunders of Bluefield, WV; one brother, Dr. Royal Saunders of New Orleans, LA; one sister, Noel Wilson and her husband Rick of Bluefield, WV; niece, Erin Wilson; nephew, R. J. Wilson also of Bluefield; special Aunts, Eva Saunders of Bluefield, VA and Brenda Matthews of Fayetteville, NC; many close relatives, and so many special friends that he acquired throughout the years. Everyone that came in contact with Aaron knew of his witty ways and he was never at a loss for words of wisdom or to lend a helping hand. He will be remembered for all the wonderful moments he shared with those that he knew and loved. Funeral services will be conducted on Monday October 17, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. at First Christian Church (DOC), 2200 Bland Road, Bluefield, WV, with the Rev. James Palmer and Rev. Aaron Watkins officiating. Burial will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery in Bluefield, VA where cousins will be pallbearers. The family will receive friends at First Christian Church on Monday from 11:00 a.m. until the service hour. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mr. Aaron Lamar Saunders, Jr.

Tribute Wall



“ Aaron Saunders,

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ I was a machine salesman at Carter when Aaron was hired.. Aaron was just a good guy that everyone liked. Aaron spoke at one of our sales meetings..To say the least he was the one that everyone remembered. Such a good guy. Just found out today when I googled his name that he had passed. So sorry.

Tom Shrader - May 20, 2022 at 10:47 PM



“ I was saddened to hear about Aaron's passing. He worked with my mother, Laura, at Carter Machinery in the 70's. She thought the world of him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Brenda Mitchell - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. Aaron and I worked together at Parker QCD in Mineapolis and stayed in contact after he left the company. He was always a pleasure to talk to and get his advice . I will miss him as a friend!

Mike Ruane - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ Noel, I was sadden to ear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Beverly Wolfe, Richmond, Va, former neighbor.

Beverly Wolfe, Richmond, Va; - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

CW

“ Growing up in Bluefield had many positives and your family was certainly one of them. I was saddened to hear the news about Aaron's passing. Although I did not know him as well as I knew Royal and Noel, I certainly remember his charm and personality. My two sisters were at Graham with Aaron and both had great words to share about him. These are attributes that are shared by every member of that family. I am keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. Charlie Welch Roanoke, Virginia

Charlie Welch - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

EK

“ We were so sad to hear the news. We remember him at Bluefield State and Aaron was such a positive person. May the good memories comfort you and may the peace of God be with you.

Eldred & Audrey (Wisdom) Keys - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

BS

“ I worked with Aaron during his time with Parker Hannifin. We were about the same age, but he taught me so much about work ethics and especially how to have a good attitude. When he visited the Greensboro facility, his smile brought everyone joy. Sadness fills my heart, and everyone else that knew him, that he is gone. Hopefully the wonderful memories he gave to all, will help fill the void from our loss.

Brenda Saunders - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

LP

“ I am so sorry to hear the sad news about Aaron. I remember Aaron from High School, he was a unique individual and a gift to all of us. He will be missed. I am sorry I could not attend his service, as I could not fly in from Calif on short notice. My prayers are with his family. Lisa Pritchett

Lisa Pritchett - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JF

“ TO MRS. NELLIE, NOEL, ROYAL AND FAMILY: I HAVE KNOWN AARON OR JUICY AS WE ALL CALLED HIM WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN WHO GREW UP TOGETHER AS CHILDREN AND THEN AS FORMAL CLASSMATES FOR A LONG TIME. HE ALWAYS KEPT US LAUGHING AND WE ALL ARE BETTER FOR KNOWING HIM. OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO YOU IN THIS TIME OF SADNESS. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ALL OFR ALL THE TIME THAT YOU SHARED WITH HIM AND I KNOW HE WILL DEFINTELY BE BLESSED. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS LOVING ARMS AND HOLD ON TO ALL THOSE MEMORIES AND BLESSING THAT HE BROUGHT TO YOU ALL.

JANICE JENKINS & FAMILY - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

RG

“ When I started teaching, Aaron was the first student to greet and welcome me to GHS. He was Mr. Personality plus with a beautiful smile. He was always well organized and had everyone walking the chalk. He will be missed. I am so sorry for your loss. Due to work, I am unable to attend the service. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Rose Ann Goddard - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

BF

“ We were so sorry to hear about the loss of your love one. Our love and prayers goes out to you and your family at this time. May God comfort you at this time. Billie Wilson & Family Charlotte, N.C.

Billie Wilson & Family - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JM

“ Nellie, Noel, & Royal, My deepest sympathy is with you all at this sad time. Aaron was a wonderful friend to my family and he called often to speak with my sweet mother, Jane Eades, before her illness and called to check on her throughout her 12 year illness. My mom thought the world of Aaron, both while he was her student at Graham High School and as he grew into a fine man. Aaron drove Mom to visit her family, and most frequently drove her to Beckley in the 70's to visit her father in the V.A. nursing home. Aaron last visited our home in Athens last summer (2010) and called several times to "touch base", most recently he called when Mom passed away in July 2011. Aaron was one of the most thoughtful and kind people I've ever known. When I felt alone & was missing my Mom & Dad, the phone would often ring and it would be Aaron. He was so kind to my son, Brady, as well. We will miss him and I will always remember all the footprints he left on my heart. May you find peace in Godspeed. Much love to you all, Sincerely, Janie & Brady Meadows

Janie (Eades) Meadows - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

KY

“ Dear Noel and family, May God be with you during this difficult time. You will be in our prayers.

Kimberly Page Yule - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

SO

“ Prayers and Blessings for Aaron's family. Nellie, may God Bless You and keep alive all the wonderful memories of what a great person Aaron was.

Sandra O'Toole - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

CH

“ Miss Nellie and Family, I will never ever forget Aaron. Went to school with him and I thought the world of him..He was a blessing.. May God comfort All of you in this sad time.. God bless and prayers to you all. With lots of love, Carol S. Herald-Tabor

Carol S. Herald-Tabor - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

CB

“ Noel and family, Please know that I remember Aaron as a thoughtful, caring and sincere person. He had a beautiful smile and warm personality. You will miss him terribly but I hope you are able to find peace in knowing that he is with God. My thoughts and prayers are with your family as you adjust. Thank you so much Noel for all you have done to help my father these past few months. We truly appreciate it and if there is anything that we can help you with please don't hesitate to let us know. Peace to your family during this most difficult time.

Cindy Stacy Backus - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

LC

“ Ms Nellie\, May god bless you and the family at this time, we will be praying for each of you.

Lisa Young Carrington - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

PJ

“ To Ms. Nellie, Noel and Family, May God's Peace that passes all understanding continuously be with you and yours at this time. As you know Aaron and I go back as childhood friends and classmates; which, makes it good to know that even though our paths went in different directions we still remain the same with one another (smile). May God's Grace and Mercy be with you all. With deepest love and sympathy. Patricia Lilly Jones

Patricia Lilly Jones - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM