



## J.W. "Tom" Church

November 28, 1934 - March 15, 2014

Tazewell, VA- J.W. " Tom" Church, 79 of Bluefield, VA died Sunday, March 15, 2014 in a Tazewell, VA hospital. Born November 28, 1934 in Welch, WV, he was a son of the late C.F. Church and Martha Powers Church. He was the owner/operator of JW's Quick Stop in Pulaski, VA. He was a member of AF&AM Henry Clay Lodge # 280 in Dublin, VA where he was a 32nd degree Mason and where he received his 50-year Masonic pin. He attended the Bluefield First Church of the Nazarene and he loved the Lord and always had a smile on his face. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by three brothers, Carl H. Church, Charles Church and Frank Church, Jr. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Helen Murray Church; one daughter, Teresa Gates and husband David of Bluefield, WV; one son, Jeffrey Church and wife Cindy of Chesterfield, VA; one brother, George Wiley Church of Pulaski, VA; two sisters, Jane Richardson and husband Tom of Bluefield, VA, Jean Harrold and husband Sonny of Pulaski, VA; brothers-in-law; Henry Murray and wife Elaine of Bluefield, VA, Frank Murray and wife Francine of Raleigh, NC, Dale Murray and wife Rita of Bedford, VA, John Murray and wife Lola of Nemours, WV; four grandchildren, David S. Gates of Bluefield, VA, Eric Gates of Bluefield, WV, and Sarah and Gregory Church of Chesterfield, VA; four great-grandchildren, Emma, Maggie, Natalie, and Nicolas Gates; and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends at Mercer Funeral Home on Wednesday March 19, 2014 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be conducted on Thursday March 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. from the Mercer Funeral

Home Chapel with Pastor Gary Jakes and Pastor Mike Ingo officiating. Burial will follow at Grandview Memory Gardens in Bluefield, VA where Masonic graveside rites will be conducted. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com) Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mr. J.W. "Tom" Church.

# Tribute Wall



“ Mercer Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of J.W. "Tom" Church



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**Mercer Funeral Home** - March 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ J.W. "Tom" Church

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October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ May your family take comfort in this verse; John 5:28, 29: “Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment.” May Jesus’ words of the resurrection hope bring you comfort in your time of grief.

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**Sharon Johnson** - March 29, 2014 at 11:04 AM

LY

“ To the family of Mr. Church,  
I am sorry to hear of your loss, how we long for the time when death  
will be no more as promised in the Bible, Jesus spoke of a time  
when the dead will live again. (Rev. 21:4) (John 5:28,29) May the  
God of all comfort be with your family during this difficult time.  
(2Corin. 1:3,4)

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**Lynn** - March 29, 2014 at 08:13 AM



“ Dearest Helen,  
Just want you to know how sorry we are about your loss. J.W. and  
his Quick Stop were a routine part of our lives. We miss seeing him  
on his bicycle and talking with him too! He was a fine man and so  
personable.

SINCERELY,  
Kathy jo and Jack Sledd

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**Jack Sledd** - March 23, 2014 at 01:42 PM

"T

“ Going to miss that laugh, that smile....love you always my dear  
sweet uncle....

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**"Tina"** - March 21, 2014 at 07:23 AM

JM

“ Always loved being around Tommy, always had something to say  
that made you smile. Going to miss him at family gatherings.

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**Jr Mitchem** - March 21, 2014 at 07:23 AM

JD

“ Dear Helen, Teresa, Jeff and families. Please know our hearts are sad for each of you. The world has lost a precious soul, but Heaven has gained a new angel. I never saw that man without a smile or laugh. He was always a pleasure to be around. He had concern and love for all. I know he will be sadly missed. But as the saying goes....this is not goodbye but see you later. Our love to each and all.

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**Jenny & Danny** - March 21, 2014 at 07:22 AM

KM

“ Our sympathy to the family. We have missed Helen and JW being here and JW's Quick Stop. God bless each of you.

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**Kenny and Esther Morrison** - March 21, 2014 at 07:21 AM

LR

“ So many sweet memories of Uncle Tommy. I was telling my kids yesterday, he was one of the kindest, gentlest, funniest people you could ever hope to meet.

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**Lauren (Murray) Richardson** - March 21, 2014 at 07:21 AM

LS

“ Jeff I am sorry to hear of the loss of your father, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

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**Lee Scott** - March 21, 2014 at 07:20 AM

ST

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. I love you!

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**Stephanie (Mitchell) Truett** - March 21, 2014 at 07:20 AM

DW

“ My condolences to the family. J.W. was one of my best friends at Graham High School. He was a very good person and was a true friend. I will certainly miss him. May God bless you and give you peace.

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**Dewey Wolford** - March 21, 2014 at 07:19 AM

DB

“ I met Mr. Church while I was attending New River Community College in Dublin, Va. A school mapping project I created had evolved into a small business I ran from home for about 10 years, and I had stopped into J.W.'s Quik Stop hoping to sell an ad to help cover the cost of printing. I had grown accustomed to more folks saying no than yes. J.W. didn't seem at all interested, instead he just seemed to want to talk. He was smiling from the get go, a warm smile I grew accustomed to and looked forward to. We probably talked for 45 minutes. He wanted to know all about me and my family. I thought he was saying no without hurting my feelings, and was about to leave when he asked about the ad prices. He bought an ad every time I reprinted the map. Looking back, he never sold that many of them compared to most other locations. As a matter of fact, I often went in to find the top copy on the stack wrinkled and soiled from being read by folks dropping in for information on the New River Trail State Park, the subject of my map. J. W. was always more interested in helping his customers than making as much money as he could from sales. I never was bothered by that. In fact, I stopped by when I could to replace the top copy at no charge, and just to visit. That became more valuable to me than his selling my map. I believe I learned a thing or two from J. W. about good business, and about being a good neighbor and a good friend. I am glad he was my friend.

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**Darnell Tony Bentley** - March 21, 2014 at 07:18 AM

DM

“Helen, we are so sorry about the passing of J.W.-May God comfort each of you during this difficult time. We will always remember the good visits with the two of you and how JW always had a smile on his face. May all the good memories bring you comfort in the coming days ahead. Love & Prayers!

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**Darnell & Virginia Mitchell** - March 21, 2014 at 07:17 AM

SM

“Sorry to hear about J.W. I knew him for many years from the store. I started going to JW quick stop, up from my house, as a young child up till it closed. My family referred to it as the "buddy" store. Always friendly...i took a sucker from the store when i was two years old (my momma made me take it back), he showed me how to count back change and never minded when I would pay with loads of loose change. He would weigh my baby brother on the produce scale when he was a baby. Will always remember those. Missed going in and seeing Alice and JW. I pray for Helen and family/friends during this time and time to follow. May God give you peace and comfort that only he can. God bless. With much thoughts and prayers, Shellyn and family

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**Shellyn M.** - March 21, 2014 at 07:16 AM

LP

“Helen and Family We are so sorry to hear of "JW's" passing. My dad - Bob Whitt - and Tom were really good friends on earth and now in heaven together. He was a good man and always a treat to see each day we made stops at the store. Again we are sorry for your loss and hope you gain peace in the days to come.

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**Lisa Friend - Pulaski** - March 21, 2014 at 07:15 AM