



K.A. Ammar Jr.

April 13, 1933 - March 14, 2020

K.A. Ammar Jr., age 86 of Bluefield, WV passed away peacefully on March 14, 2020 following an extended illness.

He was born on April 13, 1933 in Williamson, WV to the late K.A. Ammar Sr. and Lydia Ammar. From an early age, he was known to family and friends and later in life to colleagues as “Junior” until his passing.

He attended schools in Williamson, WV until his father moved the family business headquarters to Bluefield, WV. He finished school in Bluefield and graduated from Bluefield High School in 1951 where he played football and basketball.

Upon graduation, he attended Marshall College in Huntington, WV, graduating in 1956. While a student there, he was one of the leaders of a group that attended and successfully petitioned the West Virginia legislature to have Marshall changed from a College to University status, which was finalized in 1961.

While at Marshall, he was a two year president of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, as well as a member of the Robe and Omicron Delta Kappa Honorary Clubs.

During and after college, he served in the U.S. Army and reserves attaining the rank of Captain.

Upon completion of his military service, he joined the family business (Ammar’s Inc.) in 1957 where his father and uncles began teaching him to eventually assume charge of the company. During this time, he married his

college sweetheart Mary Jane Yinger (of Waldron, Michigan) in 1959. Under his leadership, the company began the gradual conversion of the smaller downtown Ammar's Brothers Department Stores to the more spacious Magic Mart stores in 1967, with the last downtown store closing in 1974. He became President and C.E.O of Ammar's, Inc. in 1975 and Chairman in 2001. The company operated the Ammar Brother's/Magic Mart stores in VA, WV, KY, NC and TN for 98 years but unfortunately closed in 2018 after serving their respective communities for almost a century.

He served on the first Board of Directors of the Bluefield Regional Hospital, which later became the Bluefield Regional Medical Center, and was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, WV where he had served as both Deacon and Elder.

He was a past president of the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and in 1979 made contact with and engaged (the yet unannounced Presidential candidate) Ronald Reagan to address over 1000 people at the Chamber's annual dinner. He served on the Boards of Directors of Flat Top and First Community Banks for 30 years (1975- 2004) and was one of the original directors in the development of Three Springs Farms Subdivision in Bluefield, WV.

He served on the Great Lakes to Florida Highway Association and was the founder and President of the Bluefield to Huntington Highway Association. He was also the first President of the King Coal Highway Authority.

K.A. was the Founder and President of the I-73/74 Corridor Association, now GLF-I-73/74 Corridor Association. This association spearheaded the Congressional approval of the I-73/74 route as a priority highway through Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

In 1992, with his brother Richard, he was awarded the Hamilton Award from the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, and in 2004 the American Legion Award, also with his brother Richard.

He was honored by the West Virginia Legislature in the naming of the Bluefield Interchange the K.A. Ammar Jr. Interchange. The Myrtle Beach

Chamber of Commerce honored K.A. and Nelson Walker for their efforts to bring I-73/74 to reality. K.A. was also honored by the City of Bluefield, WV Board of Directors in the year 2000, with Eddie Steele (deceased) and Nelson Walker (deceased).

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother Fayaz, and sisters Kalia Radwan, Adela Cecil and Rosella Michael.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 60 years, Mary Jane Yinger Ammar, three children, Susan Ammar Crewey and husband Dwayne of Moneta, VA, K.A. Ammar III (Trey) and wife Elizabeth Elizabeth of Bluefield, VA, and Sara Ammar Whitt and husband Scott of Bluefield, VA., brother, Richard Ammar, Bluefield, WV., granddaughter Jennifer Buzzo Gillespie and husband Jason, grandson Ethan Whitt, step-grandsons Michael Whitt and Matthew Whitt, great granddaughter Madalyn Gillespie and step-great granddaughter Addilene Whitt. The family would also like to express their heartfelt thanks to his caregivers Mike Barnes, Donna Flanner and Linda Howard.

There will be a private family service with no public viewing or visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Junior's honor to your favorite charity.

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. K.A. Ammar Jr.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall



“ *K.A. Ammar Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Was their neighbor on Cumberland Rd in Bluefield, WV.
Condolences to Mary Jane and Susie. With love, Elsie "Cookie" Kirk*

Donna Mannelin - July 09, 2020 at 08:02 AM



“ *We're so sorry for your loss. Your family has been in our prayers.
Jane & Andy Pfau*

Jane Pfau - March 22, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of K.A. Ammar Jr. .*



March 19, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ *Pip and were saddened to her of Jr.'s passing. We send love and
prayers to Mary Jane and her family .*

fran and Pip Alba - March 18, 2020 at 03:54 PM

JS

“ Joe and I are so sorry to hear this. We love the whole Ammar Family. Junior was a great man and we all learned so much just by sitting back and watching. Please Know you are in our daily thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Karen Simon - March 18, 2020 at 01:41 PM

VL

“ I have fond memories of visiting your home during my college years with Sara. You both were so kind and generous to welcome us and our mountains of laundry. Mr. Ammar would proudly show us his warehouse and treat us to dinner. He was so proud of Sara and treated us like extended family when mine was too far away. Very sad to hear of his passing. He remains larger than life in my memories. Much love and many prayers to your family at this difficult time.

Virginia Bennett Leeds - March 18, 2020 at 07:58 AM

TS

“ We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear husband. We are certain you have many wonderful memories to hold on to until you meet again. God be with you, you'll be in our prayers.

Tim and Miranda Stutler - March 17, 2020 at 06:38 PM

JM

“ *Mary Jane,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of loss. My dad (Bill Anderson) enjoyed being around Junior. He liked laughing with him and "telling tales" to whoever would listen. You all went on several cruises together and he always looked forward to any "get-togethers". Junior was an inspiring and benevolent man and will be missed by many in the community. May you know God's comfort, strength and peace now and in the days to come. Shalom.
Joan Anderson Murray (Bristol, VA)*

Joan A Murray - March 17, 2020 at 05:17 PM

FR

“ *Mrs Ammar,
Condolences to you and your family during this time of sorrow. I know that my parents thought the world of you both. Please know that our prayers are with you.
Fred and Rhonda Richmond*

fred richmond - March 16, 2020 at 09:35 PM

WQ

“ *I am so sorry for your loss! I have so many happy memories of spending time with your family over the years - after school, sleepovers, vacations, Mr. Ammar was always so kind to me and I'll never forget his laugh.*

You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Wendy Matney Quattrone*

Wendy Quattrone - March 16, 2020 at 09:25 PM

LD

“ *Mrs Ammar, Susan, Trey & Sara,
So sorry to hear of Mr Ammar’s passing. He is the reason that I was
able to move to my favorite town in 1976 when he hired my dad.
Lots of Magic Mart talking going on in heaven between those 2, I
am sure!*
Lynda Morphis Drye

Lynda Morphis Drye - March 16, 2020 at 07:59 PM

CS

“ *Mary Jane & family,*

*We wish to send our thoughts and prayers your way with the loss of
Junior. He will be missed in the community.*

With our love,
Chip & Georgann Simmons

Chip & Georgann Simmons - March 16, 2020 at 07:22 PM

LO

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ammar many years ago. He
amazed me at his consideration and genuine concern for his
community and his employees. He was truly a nice man.*

looneydg@embarqmail.com - March 16, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ *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 K. A. Ammar, 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 Veteran, K. A. Ammar, 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 Military Museum - March 16, 2020 at 01:30 PM

JL

“ *Sorry to read that you lost Jr. I have many great memories of him enjoyed having him as a friend.*

JUDY LAMBERT - March 16, 2020 at 10:26 AM

CS

“ *Our prayers and deepest sympathy goes to the Ammar family. He was truly an inspiration and dear friend. I thank God we all at Magic Mart shared in his journey. May God bless the family in this time of loss...*

Carl Stanton - March 15, 2020 at 09:21 PM

DS

“ Sorry for your loss. Praying for the Ammar family.

Darren Sarks - March 15, 2020 at 08:30 PM

JD

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Ammar family.

Jimmy Davis - March 15, 2020 at 07:22 PM

DS

Sorry for your loss. Praying for the Ammar family.

Darren Sarks - March 15, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Ammar family at this difficult time. Junior has always been an important figure in my life and I cherish the years I have known him. I will remember our talks, his support during my difficult times, and his sense of humor. He will be greatly missed.

Steve Hess

Steve Hess - March 15, 2020 at 06:36 PM

K-

“ So sorry Richard , Jay, and the Ammar fa family.

Kathy Lively -Hamilton - March 15, 2020 at 05:21 PM

RL

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Ammar family. May wonderful memories become priceless treasures.
Love & Prayers,
Randy & Mary Beth Lusk

Randy & Mary Beth Lusk - March 15, 2020 at 04:45 PM

JB

“ Mr Ammar will be missed. He was the first person to offer his condolences in person when I returned to work after my mother's passing in 2011 for that he will have my respect. Prayers for the family through this difficult time.

Joe Broomfield - March 15, 2020 at 11:42 AM

GS

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Ammar family. Junior was a pillar in the community, and will be missed. God bless!
Greg Spry and Laura Chandler
Roanoke, VA

Greg Spry - March 15, 2020 at 11:34 AM

TJ

“ What a wonderful Man and family, lots of fond memories but I know now you are at peace, you will be sorely missed by not only your family but the whole community.

Todd Johnson - March 15, 2020 at 11:10 AM

JL

“ I was very sad to hear this. Lot's of memories. Prayers to the entire family.....

Joe Litz

Joe Litz - March 15, 2020 at 10:58 AM

LB

“ I didn't know Mr. Ammar personally but I do know he was one one the strongest ambassadors of our area that we could ask for. My Dad, Melvin Grubb, spoke highly of him often and had great admiration and respect for him. We can only hope for a such another person(s) like Mr. Ammar to give of himself to step up for the Bluefields. God's peace to his wife Mary Jane, children and family.

Lindsey Grubb Barilla - March 15, 2020 at 10:51 AM

KM

“ I have so many fond memories it's hard to share. So many wonderful years of Buster and Junior and all of their antics. Junior's boisterous laugh and seeing he and Mary Jane so often having dinner at Fincastle on Friday nights. We are sending our love to Trey, Sara and Susan and the whole family. What a wonderful man! Love, Karen and Rick MARRS

Karen MARRS - March 15, 2020 at 10:30 AM

DR

Our most heartfelt love, prayers, and condolences to the entire Ammar family. Mr. Ammar was if he was anything....BIGGER THAN LIFE!!!!!! His grin and laugh was the best!!!!!! He actually cared about everybody equally!!!! If you were the governor or the janitor at Mitchell Stadium....you were treated with the same respect by Junior Ammar. Hopefully, the millions of precious memories of the love he shared within your family over the last 87 years will help ease the burden of the grieving process and your immense loss at this time!!!!!! Rest In Peace Junior..... you shall be loved and missed by many for years to come and I am one of them!!!!!!

David and Donna Richardson - March 15, 2020 at 12:25 PM

RG

I currently do not live in Bluefield, bu as a young boy met the AMMAR family thru Richard. They truly were an inspiration to me an successful they were they were generous with me. Junior was always genuinely nice to me. MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Richard C. Goforth - March 15, 2020 at 02:05 PM

NL

Deepest sympathy to Richard and the Ammar family. I heard so many wonderful things about Junior during my years growing up in Bluefield from my brother Herman. Prayers for peace and comfort.

Nancy St. Clair Ladish - March 15, 2020 at 02:21 PM

NB

My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. God Bless

Nancy Ammar Brown - March 15, 2020 at 09:06 PM

JM

Always sad to hear of a great community asset. All of us and Bluefield suffered a loss.

Jim Morgan - March 15, 2020 at 09:08 PM

JJ

Our hearts go to the Ammar family.

Johnnie Jennings - March 16, 2020 at 04:17 PM

ER

Mary Jane

Our sincere condolences in your loss of Jr. May you find comfort in the many special memories of your life together.

Love you, Emily and Richard Ross

Emily Ross - March 18, 2020 at 08:58 AM