



## William Edward Passan

February 10, 1933 - June 2, 2017

Bluefield, WV- William Edward Passan, 84, of Bluefield, WV, died Friday June 2, 2017 at Bluefield Regional Medical Center.

Born February 10, 1933 in New York, NY, he was the son of the late Edward Passan and Catherine Vreeland Passan. Bill was a member of First Baptist Church in Bluefield, WV where he had served as a deacon. He graduated from high school in Gainesville, FL and joined the U.S. Navy where he served as a Medic. Following his military service, Mr. Passan attended and graduated from Appalachian State University where he played football and was President of the Student Body. He loved and devoted his life to children because of his upbringing, and he had a special place in his heart for those who needed help. He answered the calling to be a teacher and a coach. He served as Vice Principal in the Roanoke Valley and as a Counselor at Ferrum College. He later moved to Big Stone Gap where he was a counselor at Mountain Empire Community College. After a year, he then took a position as Principal of Coeburn Middle School. He later became Principal and then Superintendent of John I. Burton High School in Norton, VA. He finally retired after serving as Superintendent at The Governor's School.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Lila Malone Passan; and his second wife, Doris Remines Passan.

Survivors include two children, Tia Passan O'Brien and husband Gil of Aiken, SC, and William Edward Passan, II and wife Erin of Littleton, CO; two step children, Cheri Taylor of Bluefield, VA and Shannon Remines and wife Tammy

of Bluefield, VA; five grandchildren, William Edward Passan, III, Joseph Marshall Remines, Nick Taylor, Brittany Quesenberry, and Kellen Hylton; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted on Sunday June 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. from the Mercer Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ed Fisher officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday from noon until the service hour.

Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Bluewell where military honors will be provided by the Mercer County Veteran's Honor Guard. Serving as pallbearers will be Will Cole, Colby Hill, Tony Hood, Canaan Looney, Ben Meade, Jared Richmond, Corey Coppalo, Dalton Hall, Colin Beavers, Grey Baker, and Chad Hall. Honorary pallbearers will be the Bluefield West Virginia Lions Club and members of the teams he coached.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to request that memorial contributions be made to the Lion's Club.

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 William Edward Passan.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 4. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

JUN 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Edward Passan*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *I am deeply saddened by the passing Mr. Passan. He will be remembered for his contribution in shaping the lives of young men and women during their years at John I. Burton. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Passan family.*



**Randy Caperton** - June 09, 2017 at 06:36 AM



“ *Mr. Passan would come to the cafeteria at J I Burton every morning for his cup of coffee. I made chocolate chip cookies and he was very concerned about gaining weight. one morning i got him by the hand and spin him around in a circle. no worries .no fat . we all including Mr. Passan had a great laugh. He was a wonderful and thoughtful person.*

**patricia noonchester** - June 05, 2017 at 11:44 PM



“ *Mr. Passen was a wonderful man and loved by all at Coeburn Middle school as principle. He always has a encouraging word and a smile for all. I remember that each day when we where at recess and the boys would play football both teams wanted him to quarterback for them and you always knew when it was time for the bell to ring he would throw up a hail mary and all the boys rushed to catch that ball. RIP Mr. Passen you will be greatly missed.*

**Lg Stout** - June 05, 2017 at 11:01 PM

RC

“ Mr. Passan was a wonderful principal and a kind person. I will always remember him raising one eye when I laughed but he never said anything to me. He always smiled afterwards. Burton High school was lucky to have him as a principal and superintendent. Condolences to the family. *Becky Jenkins Coffey*

Rebecca Jenkins Coffey - June 04, 2017 at 07:49 PM

JW

“ the Passan family were such dear friends and neighbors when we lived on Jackson Heights in Big Stone Gap. Our sons, Chris and David mowed their lawn and housekept when they were gone. Bill was such a gentleman and very special to us. In our prayers. *Melvin, Janet, Chris and David Wilson*

Janet Wilson - June 04, 2017 at 07:08 PM

SH

“ What a wonderful Principal Mr. Passan was to us at John I. Burton. I will never forget how fair he was with us.....a good man. Condolences to the family.



Sharon Fletcher Hickman - June 04, 2017 at 06:35 PM

YW

“ Mr. Passan was my first principal and later became my superintendent. His criticism was always constructive...his praise, always genuine. He was my mentor and my friend. *RIP*

Y. Wampler - June 04, 2017 at 05:18 PM

GB

“ Mr. Passan was a kind and good man in my eyes. He was my principal at Norton high school where he was respected and honored. It was a absolute joy to know this man and my prayers are with the family at this time as you lost a wonderful, kind man. He will always be remembered to me as a mentor, dispilinaryian and friend.

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**Greg Brewer** - June 04, 2017 at 02:22 PM

WG

“ I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Passan. He was a good friend of my dad's and said a lot of kind words about him at his funeral. My dad always spoke very highly of him and had a tremendous amount of respect for him. Mr. Passan always spoke and was very friendly. Again, I'm very sorry for your loss.  
Wesley Greear

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**Wesley Greear** - June 04, 2017 at 10:48 AM

GM

“ SO SORRY TO HEAR THE PASSING OF ONE THE BEST PRINCIPAL THAT JOHN I BURTON HAD. HE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED AND BELIEVED IN EVERY STUDENT HE COME IN CONTACT WITH. HE WOULD GO EXTRA MILE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL FUNCTION. PRAYERS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HE WILL BE TRULY MISSED BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN FOR HIS GREAT PASSION FOR STUDENT OF JOHN I BURTON HIGH SCHOOL.

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**GRETTA BOGGS MESSER** - June 04, 2017 at 03:36 AM

BH

“ So sad to hear of Mr. Passans passing. He was a wonderful man that always had a positive message for us. I will always remember him. Sending prayers for his family.

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**Beth Franks Hildebrand** - June 03, 2017 at 08:42 PM

MF

“ God bless mr. Pasan when he was principal of John I Burton he believed in me when no one else did he showed me kindness and a way to succeed rest with the angels mr. Pasan you truly are one of the greats

Michael Franks - June 03, 2017 at 07:48 PM

EH

“ To Passan Family I am sorry for your loss. I did not have an opportunity to meet Mr. Passan in person but I did speak to him via phone on many occasions. While Mr. Passan was at John I Burton, Norton, VA, I contacted him to see if he would be willing to coordinate students in writing to my nephew, Allen E. Mays, Jr while serving a tour in Iraq. Allen had graduated from Burton a few years prior. Mr Passan was delighted to get involved and they showered Allen with cards, letters, pictures, gifts and school spirit wear during his tour. Allen sent a picture of himself next to his helicopter. Mr Passan made a copy of the picture and sent to me. How thoughtful. I will forever be grateful for what he did for my nephew and for me. I did not meet you on this earth, but I did feel your fingerprints upon my life with care and compassion .  
RIP Dear Sir



Edna M Hyder - June 03, 2017 at 07:14 PM

JC

“ Mr. Passion was an awesome principal, he was tough, but always fair. He touched the lives, for the better, of so many young people. He will be missed. Prayers for the family

Jill Cooke - June 03, 2017 at 06:28 PM



“ *He was an amazing Principal. He was passionate about the kids and he was strict when we needed it and we definitely needed it at times. I feel honored to have had him in my life at a time when I needed guidance. RIP Mr. Passan.*

Nancy McInerney - June 03, 2017 at 06:19 PM



*Mr. Hassan was a great man, I remember him passing football with the kids while we were at recess. He would speak to everyone and he was tough but fair. I have always remembered him fondly. I am so sorry for your loss, I am glad I got to see his obituary and the nice things that have been written about him. I pray that you find peace and comfort in knowing that he is not suffering anymore and is with your mother's. God Bless you all and comfort you!💙*

Jeanie McCarty - June 05, 2017 at 09:12 PM



“ *I spent many days in the Passan home. I always gave Mr. Passan his laugh of the day with my "teenage antics " with Tia. He was a wonderful Father.*

tami schulte - June 03, 2017 at 06:15 PM



“ *Bill Passan was not only my high school principal but his daughter Tia was one of my closest friends while we lived in Big Stone Gap. He was one of the finest men I know. Tia, my condolences to your family. I'm so sorry for your family's loss.*

Lisa Tamer Porchie - June 03, 2017 at 06:04 PM

SS

“ *i worked under Bill Passan in Norton for many years and a finer man I have never known. His kindness and love for our students radiated through everything he said and did. He was always fair and honest and true to his calling. I honored him in life and I will honor his memory. Rest In Peace!*

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**Sandy Spera** - June 03, 2017 at 05:23 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 William Edward Passan, 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 Navy Veteran, William Edward Passan, 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 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - June 03, 2017 at 08:02 AM

JM

*Mr. Passan was principal at J.I. Burton when I went. He was wonderful with all the students. He was a wonderful man. Prayers go out to his family.*

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**Jeff Mathieson** - June 03, 2017 at 06:00 PM