



Wallace Ward Berry

Patiently waiting, the bell finally tolled for me at 10:04 p.m. Thursday, May 1, 2014. Although my health in the last several months hasn't been the best, still I have counted my blessings for a rather long life, a rather good life, and now am very content to cross over the river and be with my family and friends who have preceded me to that Eternal Home hath no end.

I was born on a Saturday, January 9, 1915, in lower King George County. I attended a two-room schoolhouse named Madison. I graduated from King George High School on May 23, 1932, with nine other boys and 10 girls, all of whom now have preceded me. These 19 were all married at least once, except myself, which perhaps gave me the edge in longevity.

I am survived by a nephew, Reginald C. Berry and wife Karen of Lynchburg; two nieces, Judith Ann Barbieri and husband John of Twicherham, England, and Janet Lea Berry and husband Kenneth of Lynchburg. Having lost all of my 16 first cousins, I have been proud of having a host of second, third, fourth, fifth cousins and beyond, which I have loved to hug and have treasured each one of them.

I was predeceased by my brother, Reginald S. Berry; my parents, Leonard and Clara Berry; and perhaps a host of others reaching back to Adam and Eve.

Most of my working-day life was in the hotel/motel industry, being employed first at the old Colonial Beach Hotel, now dismantled, the James Madison Hotel in Orange, Va., and the Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. I retired in 1982, after 20 years with the Holiday Inn family.

One exception, when I spent a year with the U.S. Department of State in Manila, the Philippine Islands in 1946 and 1947. I was there to witness the fulfillment of the dream of those Filipinos when they were granted from U.S. permission to form their own government on July 4, 1946. It was a thrill to see their cheers when our U.S. Flag was lowered in silent respect and their flag raised-thus the birth of a new nation. My military service involved 17 years in the U.S. Army (12 active, 5 in the reserves). Eleven of those years were with the Veterinary Corps in and around New York City and two years in Alaska.

While life for myself has been rewarding, yet I leave it with no great legacy of accomplishments, nor medals of outstanding achievements, yet in deep humility I leave with that great love that shall forever not let go as evidenced each Christmas Holiday with over 500 cards sent annually to many of you since 1937.

During my life span I qualified for very few clubs. Happily I was accepted into the membership of my church, Round Hill Baptist in 1926; proudly in the Democratic party since 1937 and the American Legion, of which I have been the oldest member in Post 55, Fredericksburg, for several years.

The funeral service for myself shall be held at my beloved Round Hill Baptist Church at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, with the family receiving friends one hour prior to the start, followed by a good old fashioned protracted meeting dinner that I enjoyed so much during my life span. My pastor, Rev. Ted James, shall conduct the service with Donna Barnum and her wonderful choir singing me away to my eternal rest.

Later I shall be cremated and my ashes placed in our beautiful National Cemetery in Quantico, at 12 noon Wednesday, May 14.

Memorials can made to Round Hill Baptist Church, Box 467, King George, VA 22485; or Mary Washington Hospice, 5012 Southpoint Pkwy., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

Please sign the online guest book at nashandslawfh.com.



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