



Harry Freeman Mountcastle

March 21, 1924 - January 30, 2020

Harry Freeman Mountcastle of Providence Forge, Virginia passed away Thursday, January 30th, 2020. He was 95. He was born on March 21st, 1924 in the very same small town in which he died, weighing in at a whopping twelve pounds for what was the start of a long, loving life. His was a life driven by integrity, honest hard work, a deep faith, and an insatiable curiosity about his world. To know him was to know that he exuded a delight over the great fortune he felt to be alive. He was humble and generous. He was a man who knew the value of a dollar, learned early as a young boy, when he put his bike out for sale with a cardboard sign that read "Will sell for \$12 or \$13." His older brothers teased him with no mercy, but by the time he was 15, he had started his first venture into the business of wood, chopping firewood for sale and delivery from an old, discarded 1930's school bus he repurposed for hauling by cutting off the top and sides. In 1942 when news of America's entrance into World War 2 reached his village of Providence Forge, he headed straight-away to the local conscription office, volunteered, and was enlisted into the US Army at 18. He spent a year and a half fighting in the Philippines as a Tech Sergeant with his comrades of the US Army, Company C, 85th Chemical Mortar Battalion. He made it home with a bad case of malaria and a grateful heart. He met and married, Minnie, his life partner, not long after his return from the war. They were married 68 ½ years. Harry, with his four brothers, operated the former Mountcastle Lumber Company of Providence Forge and Newport News. He was also an avid hunter, relic collector, and fisherman.

Harry served his God and his community with a forthright, unwavering devotion as a church elder of Providence Forge Presbyterian Church for 25 years, as a volunteer New Kent fire fighter and school board member, and as a mentor, friend, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He possessed an inspiring ingenuity for creating something new from something old, and his enthusiasm for the nature world along with his understanding of its preciousness were unspoken life lessons. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard E. and Sallie C. Mountcastle, his four brothers: James C. (Virginia), Richard E. Jr. (Mary), George W. (Estelle), Thomas H. (Anne); his infant sister, Dorothy; and his wife, Minnie.

He is survived by his son, Dennis (Betsy); two daughters, Loretta Mountcastle, and Joan Heath (Bob); and a beloved addition to the family, Jeff Jones (Beth). He has four grandchildren: Brielle Stanley (Brian), Dustin S. Mountcastle (Kristin), Anna Claire Mountcastle, and Robert Heath III (Cindy). There are 13 great-grandchildren, Rachel, Grayson and Harrison Stanley, Ella Scott, Alice Anne and Collette Leigh Mountcastle, Liliana Claire Mountcastle, Rylan and August Campbell, Aleksander, Meighlan, Taylor and James Heath. Harry is survived also by many special nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, February 8th at Vincent Funeral Home in Providence Forge, followed by a service at 1:30 PM at Providence Forge Presbyterian Church, 9310 Townsend Rd., Providence Forge, with the burial after in Olivet Church Cemetery. A reception for all follows at Wallace Manor in Providence Forge. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Providence Forge Presbyterian Church, PO Box 239, Providence Forge, VA 23140 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Cemetery Details

Olivet Presbyterian Church Cemetery

5700 Olivet Church Road
Providence Forge, VA 23140

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Service

FEB 8. 1:30 PM (ET)

Providence Forge Presbyterian Church
9310 Townsend Rd
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-2079

Tribute Wall

JR

“ *John & Vickie Roane lit a candle in memory of Harry Freeman Mountcastle*



john & vickie roane - February 08, 2020 at 01:40 PM



“ *Loretta, what a beautiful tribute your father. Mike and I never had the pleasure of actually meeting him, but so enjoyed all the wonderful stories you shared through the years-- a remarkable man, a remarkable life. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

*With love,
Sue and Mike Shelton*

Sue Shelton - February 06, 2020 at 10:32 PM

EK

“ *Jack and I are so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Harry and Minnie were such good friends with Jacks parents, so many memories . He was such an active member of our county and the church. Prayers to all. Jack and Ethel King*

Ethel King - February 06, 2020 at 05:31 PM

CA

“ Loretta,
Andy and I are so sorry to hear about your Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Hang on to all the great memories that make you smile.
Love,
Casey and Andy Redford

CaseyRedford - February 06, 2020 at 11:00 AM

IC

“ So sorry Dustin and Kristin. My thoughts and prayers are with you. He sounded like a wonderfully person that made a difference to the world. Those that leave a beautiful footprint in the world will never be forgotten. We love you and your family

ida compton - February 06, 2020 at 01:58 AM

RM

“ Dennis,

Sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. We can all take solace in knowing that he lead a full and rewarding life and left a legacy of loving and successful children.

The Martinko Family

Robert Martinko - February 05, 2020 at 08:20 AM

AS

“ Loretta, I am so sorry for the loss of your father. He clearly was a good man. While I never had the privilege of meeting him, I believe he was loved by all of your. You and your extended family are in my prayers as I know this is a difficult time.

Audrey Sitten, Mechanicsville

Audrey K Sitten - February 04, 2020 at 05:52 PM

CH

“ We were sorry to hear of the passing of your father and want you and your family to know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Your father touched many lives in his own special way and leaves a beautiful legacy. Love and God Bless, Chuck and Pat Heath

Chuck and Pat Heath - February 04, 2020 at 12:09 PM

CH

“ My fondest memory of Mr. Mountcastle would have to be hot summer afternoons at Mountcastle pond. There was nothing better after garden work. I think the Sunday School picnics was held there for many years also. Boy, those were the days, the 60s in downtown Providence Forge! Harry and the brothers that I knew were men of integrity and morals. Men to be looked up to and respected. Men to try to model yourself after, though the boots they wore left mighty big tracks. Rest in Peace, Mr, Mountcastle , you are truly worthy of the reward you are enjoying now. I'll miss you and Thomas at the Post Office. Chris

chrishockaday8@gmail.com - February 03, 2020 at 10:15 PM

JV

“ I loved Harry like I loved my own grandfathers. Harry always acted genuinely pleased to see you, greet you and be in your company. I joined PFPC 28 years ago and admired Harry for the mentor and role model he has always been. Our adult Sunday School class will greatly miss his constant presence and desire to know more about God's Word throughout his long life. His legacy will live forever in the beautiful family he and Minnie created. Peace and love to all of his family. Jane G. VanDyke

Jane G. VanDyke - February 03, 2020 at 07:38 PM