



William Guy Townsend

February 15, 1936 - March 23, 2022

William Guy Townsend, 86, passed away March 23, 2022. He was a lifelong resident of King William County. The son of Guy O. and Sally Townsend, he graduated from Augusta Military Academy and then North Carolina State University with a degree in Animal Industry. He spent eight years as an Army Intelligence Reserve officer discharged as Captain. While dairy farming he opened a real estate/auction business and joined Ownby Auction and Realty as a sales manager. Active in civic community organizations, he was a founding member of the King William Rescue Squad, served on the King William Zoning Board and Planning Commission as well as President of the King William Ruritan Club, Forestry Club, Red Cross, as well as The Hundred Bushel Corn Club. For 15 years he was a member of the Bank of Essex Board of Directors. At the state level, he was President of the Friends of Agriculture, and the Virginia Auctioneers Association and a member of the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

In later years, he wanted to return to the soil and ran Prestley Farm Nursery for 15 years known for irises and daylilies. He and Emilie loved to travel, always looking for another adventure and making new friends. As long as he was able, fishing and hunting were top priorities. His book, *One Man's Footsteps*, a collection of essays about his life, was a visit with "the story teller."

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Emilie Laney Townsend, and a son, Guy Langdon Townsend, two sisters, Betty Rose Townsend Sexton (Tim) and Sally Townsend Hart, and a niece and nephews. A daughter, Jayne Yates Townsend predeceased him. Known for his friendly generous spirit and humor, he will be missed.

Graveside services will be held at McKendree Methodist Church April 2 at 2 pm followed by a reception. Memorials may be made to Aylett Country Day School. PO Box 70 Millers Tavern, VA 23115 or McKendree Methodist Church, PO Box 254, Manquin, VA 23106.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

McKendree UMC Cemetery
4347 Manfield Rd.
Manquin, VA 23106

Tribute Wall

CM

“*Emilee, Sally, Betty Rose, and family, so sorry for your loss. The entire Townsend family were great to our family as we grew up (first at Presley Farm and then at Gould Hill). Much love and may God Bless. The Vencill Family*

Cara M Melton - March 29, 2022 at 07:55 PM

JS

“*Once you had felt the warmth of friendship from William Guy Townsend you have experienced the best of what this life has to offer.*

You need read only a few of the short character sketches he wrote for his local community news-paper over the years to glimpse the understanding and generous nature he applied in assessing the actions of his fellow man

I count myself very lucky to have known this fine Southern Gentleman.

Emily, I treasure the memories of randomly stopping by for a few minutes to visit with you two whenever my forestry consulting business took me out to your end of the world.

Sometimes the gap between visits was several years but your hospitality was always strong and genuine.

My life was enriched by knowing you both. You guys personify the “Let me live by the side of the road and be a friend to man” creed.

Farewell old friend. The light from your cheery campfire will continue to illuminate the path to happiness for those of us left here to remember you with a smile.

*John Charles Smith
Retired Forester
Surry VA*

John Smith - March 29, 2022 at 03:12 PM

TO

“ May God be with you all during this time.

Tom Reese Jr., VA Auction Lic 000393 - March 28, 2022 at 01:04 PM

LI

“ Very sorry to hear of Guy's passing. We were at Augusta together. My daughter's son Wyn Coleman I believe is a good friend of Sally Hart's son. Best wishes to all family.

Lewis MUNDIN, Class of 1953

Lewis H. MUNDIN, III - March 27, 2022 at 11:48 AM

JN

“ Guy was one of a kind. He was always so kind and encouraging to me personally and professionally. He loved the auction industry and was a huge supporter. I will always cherish our talks and emails. He will be missed and his memory and contributions will last forever.

John Nicholls - March 26, 2022 at 08:10 PM