

Obituaries

Frances D. Flesher of Huntington

Frances D. Flesher, 90, of Huntington, passed away on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at her residence. Born on December 9, 1926 in Huntington, she was a daughter of the late Carl Damron and Maybelle Conrad Damron. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Ira Flesher; sisters, Norma Garretson, Betty Porter, Juanita Kincaid, Eva Powers and her brother, Laundle Damron. Frances was a member of the Beverly Hills United Methodist Church in Huntington. She is survived by her children, Gail (Rody) Workman of Wayne, WV and Steve (Lynnette) Flesher of Huntington; brothers, Bill (June) Damron of Chesapeake, OH and Ernie (Arlene) Damron of Huntington; grandson, Justin (Carmen) Flesher of Charlotte, NC; nieces, Carla (John) Doyle, Sheila (David) Hall, Vicki (Fred) Delp and Karen (Steve) Carnohan; nephew, Mike (Janet) Kincaid; special caregivers, Shirley Adkins and Nancy Jones and numerous other nieces, nephews, relatives. Frances was a beloved mother and grandmother and was cherished by her large extended family and dear friends. Funeral Services will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the Woodmere Abbey of Remembrance, Woodmere Memorial Park in Huntington, with Entombment to follow. The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 P.M. at Beard Mortuary, Huntington. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her honor to the Hospice of Huntington.



Taylor "TC" Chester Smith Of Huntington

Taylor "TC" Chester Smith, 66, of Huntington passed away August 17, 2017 at the Heritage Nursing Center in Huntington after a long illness. Smith is preceded in death by his parents, Donald W. Smith Jr. and Aretta Lois Taylor Smith Shannon. Survived by his wife Pamela G. Smith of Huntington; son, Bryan D. Smith of Ashland, Virginia; step-son Michael A. Hupp of Huntington; his sister, Sara Ellen Young of Matthews, NC; nephew, John T. Young of Matthews, NC; niece, Nicole L. Young, of Charlotte, NC; and faithful canine companion Midget who he loved dearly. Also survived by aunts Joyce Adkins (Reggie) of Fort Mill, SC; Nancy Blatt (Al) of Huntington; and Nell Taylor, Inverness, Florida – along with several cousins and grandchildren. He retired from M&G Polymers in Apple Grove, W.Va. as a long-time chemical operator. He was active in coaching youth sports in the Lavalette and Buffalo areas. He was a graduate of Buffalo High School and Marshall University. Always a faithful fan of Marshall University athletics, he was most proud of graduating top of his IT class from the school he so loved. Smith was honored when asked to speak to his class at his 2006 graduation after returning to school as a non-traditional student. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Kenova. There will be a small family service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Marshall University Big Green Scholarship Foundation in Smith's honor.



Ramona Lee Irving of Proctorville, OH

Ramona Lee Irving, 81, of Proctorville, OH, left her broken body on Thursday, August 17, 2017. She was raised in Wayne County, the daughter of William Stanley Shannon and Gemma Lee Hutchinson Shannon. She was preceded in death by her husband, John H. Irving; two brothers, Gary and Billy; two loving aunts and one uncle. She is survived by her daughter, Robin (Tim) Fife, son, Mark Shannon; grandsons, John "JJ" Waters and Joey Fife; special great-grandchildren, Alexis Fife and Jaxson Waters, as well as her nieces, nephews, and special cousins. Mona, as her friends knew her, was a bright light in many a neon lit room. She was a constant cheerleader for her family and numerous friends and loved her fur babies. A lifetime of running many popular Huntington establishments alongside her husband, Johnny, gave Mona a uniquely colorful view on life, with no shortage of customers and employees who became extended family. She will be greatly missed by all. Mona's goodbye to you all... "Ta-Da". Services are being held privately by the family.



Emma Katherine Dick Of Wayne

Emma Katherine Dick, 78, of Wayne, W.Va., died at her residence on Sunday, August 20, 2017. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, August 24, 2017, at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, Wayne. Burial will follow in the Adkins-Dick Cemetery, Wayne. She was born on February 1, 1939, to the late Walter "Bus" and Avis Gertrude (Osburn) Adkins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother-in-law Bernard Dick. She is survived by her loving husband Roy Leon "BoJay" Dick; three sisters, Dorothy Adkins (Donald) of Wayne, Glenna Berry (Glenn) and Lois Edmonds, both of Lavalette; sisters-in-law Gloria Jean Dick of Kentucky and Hester Lawhorn of Barboursville, W.Va.; and brother-in-law Golden Dick of Wayne. Visitation will be held at the Morris Funeral Home one hour prior to service.



Homer Caudill of Louisa

Homer Caudill 85 of Louisa, KY went home to be with the Lord on Sunday afternoon August 20, 2017 following a long illness. Homer was born Feb. 2, 1932 at Fallsburg, KY the son of the late Chester and Bertha Stewart Caudill. In addition to his parents he is also preceded in death by his wife Eula Mae Miles Caudill who died in 1984, a daughter Leecia J. Levering, three brothers Herman, Fred, and Paul Caudill, and two sisters Joanne Robertson and Elaine "Boots" Knudson. Homer was a retired Auto Mechanic and newspaper carrier for the Daily Independent. He was also a member of the Catalpa Free Will Baptist Church. Survivors include a son Gary Steve Caudill of Louisa, four grandchildren Ricky Caudill of Fallsburg, KY, Robert Caudill of Lagrange, KY, Jimmy Levering of Bergin, KY and Ronnie Scott of Fort Gay, WV; eight great grandchildren, a sister Nora Jean Richiser of Sweetwater, TN; and a host of nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday August 23rd at 11:00 am at the Catalpa FWB Church with Rev. Mike Cox officiating. Burial will follow in the Caudill Cemetery on Spankem Branch Road Fallsburg, KY. Friends may visit the family after 7:00 pm on Tuesday August 22nd at the Catalpa FWB Church.



Nollis Dale Christian of Kenova

Nollis Dale Christian, 72, of Kenova, WV, passed away Thursday, August 17, 2017 in Cabell-Huntington Hospital. Graveside service will be conducted 3:30 Monday, August 21, 2017 at Maple Hill Cemetery with Pastor Scott Byard officiating. He was born July 6, 1945 in Wayne Co. son of the late Harry Clifford and Myrtle Mae Hollingsworth Christian. He was the C.E.O. of OXY-H Corp. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a son Tony Christian. Survivors include his beloved wife Rebecca "Becky" Workman Christian; son Martin Edward "Marty" Christian; one special stepdaughter Pam; two grandchildren Carly and Conor Christian; one sister and brother-in-law Yvonne Canterbury (Jim); two brothers-in-law and their spouses Ken Workman (Donna) and Rick Workman (Cindy); one sister-in-law Patty Workman and a host of extended family and friends. Visitation will be 1-3 P.M. Monday, August 21, 2017 at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova. Memorial contributions may be made to Rollins Funeral Home P.O. Box 309 Kenova, WV. 25530. Online condolences may be expressed at www.rollinsfh.com.

Dr. Alex E. Booth Jr. Of Stuart, Florida

Dr. Alex E. Booth Jr., of Stuart, Florida, died in his home with his adoring wife, Katherine, by his side on August 17, 2017. He was 93 years old. He is coming home to be laid to rest in the town of his birth, Kenova, West Virginia. Dr. Booth is preceded in death by a wife, Permele Francis Booth, and survived by his beloved wife, Katherine Sawyer Booth and her two daughters. Over the course of American history, there have been great men who worked hard and made fortunes worthy of kings. One of the greatest among them, Alex E. Booth, Jr., quietly stood above captains of industry and celebrated philanthropists, believing that wealth, whether earned or received, was a blessing given by God in order to bless his fellow man. Thus, early in his life, while the prospect of making a fortune was only a dream, Alex made a commitment that would become the driving force of his life for the rest of his days, and beyond. At a mere 20 years of age, he committed to set aside half of his hard earned wealth to make the world a better place for the glory of God. Alex was born September 21, 1925, in Kenova, West Virginia, the only child of Alex Sr., and Roxanna Booth. His greatness, however, was born of prayer. Prior to his birth, Alex's great grandmother, Sara Ferguson, prayed fervently that her unborn great grandson would become either a pastor or a missionary. The Book of James declares that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much." (James 5:16) and God would answer a great grandmother's prayer in a way that would far exceed her greatest dreams for her great grandson, Alex. As a young boy, Alex learned the value of hard work as he helped his parents run their family business. Dreamland not only provided the community with recreation in one of the largest swimming pools in the United States, but with joy as all of the "greats" during the Big Band era, men like Louie Armstrong, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and others, played their famous tunes with thousands dancing the night away at Dreamland. Dreamland gave way to a small family coal business, while Alex pursued higher education. As valedictorian of Kentucky Military Institute, Alex then received a prestigious appointment to become a West Point Cadet at only 17 years old. After transferring to the University of Chicago in 1945, he learned of his father's debilitating illness. Alex left the University of Chicago, after only one year, during which time he completed what would ordinarily be a four year degree track. Alex received a Ph.B. from the University of Chicago, graduating in 1946 with honors and all A's. Alex was only 20 years old when he came home to run the family coal business. When his father died, Alex took over two mines and by the time he turned 25, he had built a multimillion dollar corporation, serving as President of the Booth Coal Company and the Wise County Coal Corporation. Always remembering his great grandmother's prayer, Alex never lost sight of his God ordained purpose in life. With abiding faith in God and a love for mankind, Alex held a profound vision of the Christian mission to reach the world with the love of Jesus. Until his last days, he kept a special place in his heart for Kenova and her people. Alex set out to make Kenova and the surrounding region a better place for the sake of Christ. A group of Christians, soon to be known as First Presbyterian Church, gathered for worship at an old train station. Alex determined to build a magnificently beautiful sanctuary for the congregation with a very special touch. Traveling to Jerusalem, Alex hand selected olive wood from a 2000 year old tree that may have been growing in the day of Jesus. At his direction, craftsmen produced a beautiful wooden cross that adorns the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Kenova to this day. He left his fingerprints on the olive wood cross, and a big piece of his heart in the ongoing mission of First Presbyterian Church to the people of Kenova. Recognizing the importance of education to lift people out of poverty, Alex established the Booth Scholars program, providing countless young people in Kenova with college preparatory classes, personal computers, and the opportunity to travel abroad to discover that the world is a bigger place and full of glorious opportunity. Many of the Booth Scholars now serve in the most honorable professions because of Alex's loving generosity. He also established a nursing program that provided over 7000 people in West Virginia and Florida with scholarships to nursing school. And, over the course of his life, Alex Booth contributed many millions of dollars to institutions of higher education in the region. With many buildings named in his honor, Marshall University, Davis and Elkins College, and Pikeville College all benefitted from the overwhelming generosity of Alex Booth. Recognizing his great contributions of financial and intellectual capital, Davis and Elkins College bestowed upon Alex an honorary Doctoral Degree in 1993. Alex was passionate about raising the quality of life for the elderly. Seeing a great void in quality care, he built fourteen retirement homes in the region beginning with the Roxanna Booth Manner, in honor of his mother. Believing that exposure to fine art would enhance the quality of life for the region, Alex served as a devoted trustee of the Huntington Museum of Art. Alex labored for two years with the world renowned German architect, Walter Gropius, to build an art museum which rivals the finest of such in America's largest cities. In honor of his friend the architect, Alex funded the establishment of the Walter Gropius Master Artist Workshop series, which draws people to the Huntington Museum of Art from across the United States. The Huntington Museum of Art treasures many of the finest examples of modern art painting and sculpture



donated by Alex Booth. Alex was tall, quiet and gentle, and had little time for levity. He was an intellectually brilliant problem solver who required little sleep. Countless nights were spent processing a compassionate concern of needs unmet in the lives of the less fortunate, or needs met ineffectively, but by sunrise, Alex would reach the long sought solution which so often proved to be life changing for others. He was well ahead of his time and other thinkers, in proposing more effective and dignified approaches to leadership development and missiology. Alex's great passion in life was to support the burgeoning Body of Christ in Sub-Saharan Africa. Having made numerous expeditions to Africa seeking needs that he could address, Alex discovered the mission that would give birth to a generosity unrivaled in the history of Christianity. Alex believed that the growing African Church needed to develop her own leadership from within, rather than continuing to depend upon the patronizing colonial model of sending white American missionaries to fill the leadership void. He developed partnerships with protestant denominational leaders in eleven different African nations to supply them with the financial resources needed to develop excellent leadership from within. With proper training, African pastors and evangelists went forward to preach the Gospel and plant churches. The Booth Leadership Initiative, in partnership with the Outreach Foundation of the Presbyterian Church, was established by Alex as the vehicle through which he would focus so much of his generosity and passion for the African Church. During 2017 alone, Alex has funded the theological education of 1392 pastors and the construction of 420 churches. Over the course of the last 40 years, Alex has funded the theological education of well over 15,000 African pastors, as well as the construction of over 20,000 new churches. His generosity has reached millions of people with the love of Jesus Christ, and will for years to come. Instead of becoming a pastor or a missionary, the Lord answered Sara Ferguson's prayer by making Alex one of America's most successful businessmen, with a faithful heart, and a steadfast dedication to see a great grandmother's prayer come to fruition in the Kingdom of God. More important than business or philanthropy, Alex was a faithful husband who dearly loved his wife, and over the course of their marriage, Alex and Katherine traveled the world celebrating their glorious love for one another. That love shone more brightly than diamonds in Alex's last days, as Katherine cared for him so sweetly and tenderly. On August 17, 2017, Alex breathed his last and entered into the Church Triumphant. There, he met Jesus, Whom he had served all of his life, and on that day, Alex Booth heard his Master say, "Well done, well done, Alex. My good and faithful servant." A reception in memory of Dr. Alex E. Booth, Jr., will be held on Friday, August 25 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Huntington Museum of Art, where on display are the many beautiful works that Alex purchased and donated to the Museum over the years. His funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 26 at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Kenova. Reverend Steven Speed Bryant, Sr., Executive Director of the Booth Leadership Initiative will officiate the service. A graveside service will immediately follow at Ridgelawn Memorial Park, Huntington. Memorials may be made to the Booth Leadership Initiative of the Outreach Foundation, 381 Riverside Drive, Suite 110, Franklin, TN, 37064. A more thorough account of the life and contributions of Alex Booth was recently authored and published by his wife, Katherine Booth, entitled Walk Faster, Alex! The Life of Dr. Alex Booth, available at Amazon.com.

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