



Ernest Graves

Ernest Graves, known as "Possum" died, January 2, 2018. Possum had been in poor health for several years, but his last bout with cancer was too much for him to fight. Possum was born in Winchester, on June 21, 1955. He was 62 years old.

Possum was born and raised in the Winchester area. He spoke of the days of Patsy Cline and seeing her while she worked at Gaunt's Drug Store, when he was a child. As a youngster, Possum spent his summers at Watermelon Park helping his parents and the Millers with various festivals.

He always loved country music and made a point of knowing not only the music, but as much as he could learn about the musicians themselves. Older music was his favorite, but he enjoyed new country, as well.

Possum was predeceased by his parents, but he leaves a daughter, Sharon Dunlap, two estranged sons, and two granddaughters, Shonta and Jessica Dunlap, also of Winchester.

Possum was loved by many for his kindness, loyalty, and generosity. He was always willing to help, and share whatever he had with others. His generous spirit extended to animals as well. Whenever he was charged with the care of farm animals, he made them pets and loved them. Possum would carry little "treats" in his pockets for the animals. His favorite time of day was the quiet dawn. During that time he would watch for the "critters" that were retiring for the day and was often rewarded by their trusting presence.

His last employment had been with Jordan Springs Market as well as being farm help for the owner, Austin Landry. During his life, he had been a DJ, a truck driver, and a Farm Manager. He had, at different times, been a member of Clearbrook, Greenwood, Rouss, and Stephens City Fire Departments.

A celebration of Possum's life will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Stonewall Ruritan Building at the Frederick County Fair Grounds.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to help with Possum's final expenses. You may contribute directly to Austin Landry or Sharon Dunlap.