



## Ben Henry Blankenship, Jr.

June 24, 1939 - September 10, 2024

Ben H. "B.H." Blankenship, Jr., 85, of Altavista died Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at Autumn Care of Altavista.

B.H. was born June 24, 1939 in Altavista, a son of the late Ben H. Blankenship, Sr. and Esther Howell Blankenship, both from Huddleston.

He is survived by and closest to his aunt, Billie Howell of Mesa, Arizona and her sons, David Howell of Roy, Utah, Mike Howell of West Haven, Utah and Kevin Howell of Davenport, Iowa.

In his early years, B.H. attended Altavista High School, Prep School at Fork Union and VCU in Richmond. He worked for his father who was the owner of Altavista Hardware and later became the owner. He also moved on to own Appomattox Servistar Oil Co. B.H. also served 3 years in the Virginia National Guard. B.H. also enjoyed his time dancing and socializing with the Lynchburg Area Shag Club.

In later years, he moved to Smith Mountain Lake and then Destin, Florida before returning home to Altavista in 2023. B.H. loved being on the lake and ocean. He had wonderful memories of his time patrolling Smith Mountain Lake as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He also loved sports cars, especially his most recent Mazda Miata.

B.H.'s home church was First Baptist Church in Altavista, but he attended Christ Community Church in Penhook when living at the lake. He enjoyed a men's Bible group who met during the week. In Destin, Florida he became an Associate Member of Destin Methodist Church and especially enjoyed their early service on the beach and their men's Bible study group.

B.H. loved being around people. He had a quick wit and delightful sense of humor. Those of us who were fortunate enough to call him friend will miss him deeply. As was inscribed on his 50 years in the Coast Guard Auxiliary plaque, "Bravo Zulu," meaning, "Well done."

Family and friends will be conducting a celebration of life at 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 20, 2024 at First Baptist Church, 1001 Bedford Ave., Altavista, VA 24517 by the Rev. Alden Gallimore.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider First Baptist Church, 1001 Bedford Ave, Altavista, VA 24517.

Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church Cemetery

1934 Carters Mill Road  
Huddleston, VA 24104

# Previous Events

## Family and Friends

SEP 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
1001 Bedford Ave.  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ *BH and I were friends for many years and shared a number of experiences from boating on the Chesapeake Bay to a trip to Guatemala. He was a good man and will be missed. Alan Pinekenstein*

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**Alan Pinekenstein** - February 02, 2025 at 11:34 PM

GP

“ *I am so glad that he was able to move back to Altavista to be in the area that he grew up in and people that cared for him.*



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**Gloria Piercy** - December 30, 2024 at 01:10 PM

PR

“ *BH lived beside me in Altavista when I was growing up. He was a little older so I didn't see him much but thought so much of his Mom and Dad. Prayers lifted for his immediate family. Pam Creasy Rothrock*

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**Pam Creasy Rothrock** - November 22, 2024 at 02:14 PM

VC

“ *I have fond memories of BH and my Dad. Rest in Peace B H.*

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**Vicky Creasy** - September 19, 2024 at 07:57 AM

TF

“ *Our family will miss being able to talk to BH, whether on the phone or in person. We have been close to him all of his life. He was our nephew and cousin on the Howell side.* ”

**The Edward Howell Family** - September 19, 2024 at 02:32 AM

CW

“ *Chris & Katie Worsham lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship* ”



**Chris & Katie Worsham** - September 16, 2024 at 11:47 AM

SA

“ *Deepest Sympathy for BH and family from Sarah Adams* ”

**Sarah Adams** - September 13, 2024 at 07:39 PM

AP

“ *anita phillips lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship* ”



**anita phillips** - September 13, 2024 at 10:19 AM

KW

“ Ken Woodson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ben Blankenship



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**Ken Woodson** - September 13, 2024 at 07:38 AM

SO

“ I remember Ben and his dad working at Altavista Hardware when it was on Broad Street. Always friendly. Good family. Good man. He will be missed.

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**Shirley Orrell** - September 12, 2024 at 05:28 PM

DM

“ Dorothy Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



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**Dorothy Mitchell** - September 12, 2024 at 03:35 PM

GC

“ Glenna W Carr lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



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**Glenna W Carr** - September 12, 2024 at 02:09 PM

AK

“ *B H was a classmate of mine AHS. 1958.  
He was a mess in those days  
RIP my friend.  
Alice Faye Krantz Keesee*



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**Alice krantz keesee** - September 12, 2024 at 01:36 PM

SR

“ *Sandra Robertson lit a candle in memory of  
Ben Blankenship*



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**Sandra Robertson** - September 12, 2024 at 01:01 PM

KS

“ *KAY SCRUGGS lit a candle in memory of Ben  
Blankenship*



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**KAY SCRUGGS** - September 12, 2024 at 09:43 AM

BH

“ *Betty Hunley lit a candle in memory of Ben  
Blankenship*



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**Betty Hunley** - September 12, 2024 at 08:50 AM

GS

“ Geraldine Shelton lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



Geraldine Shelton - September 11, 2024 at 09:19 PM

NR

“ Nancy Roark lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



Nancy Roark - September 11, 2024 at 09:15 PM

SF

“ Shirley Forloines lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



Shirley Forloines - September 11, 2024 at 04:58 PM

JM

“ Jimmy and Anne marr lit a candle in memory of Ben Blankenship



Jimmy and Anne marr - September 11, 2024 at 02:04 PM