



Ford Amos Nichols

March 21, 1923 - July 12, 2013

On July 8, Ford Amos "Nick" Nichols said, "My life has been wonderful, and I owe it to Him," as he pointed above. Whenever he was asked if he had a good day, he would respond: "Every day is a good day." Ford was the youngest of eight children born to Walter Nichols and Lula Frith Nichols Creasy in Bedford County, Virginia.

From the stories Ford told, he undoubtedly had an interesting life. His stories of adventures with his siblings revealed a good bit of innocent mischievousness and throughout his life he exhibited an incredible sense of humor.

At the age of eight, he survived a bite from a rattlesnake, which was one of his most memorable experiences. He started woodworking at a young age and was a talented, avid woodworker all of his life, often helping others in need of a skilled carpenter or electrician.

The highlight of Ford's life was proudly serving in the Marines during World War II. He served in the Pacific and enjoyed showing a picture of the future President Gerald Ford who served on the same aircraft carrier, the USS Monterey. During the war he had a variety of assignments, which included distributing ammunition during battle, serving on an anti-aircraft gun crew, and serving as the captain's orderly. He especially enjoyed his last duty on the

carrier because if the captain did not want to be disturbed, Ford had the authority, as a PFC, to tell officers they could not see the captain. Ford always said he was never afraid during the war because he knew God was with him, and throughout his tour of duty, he carried a New Testament given to him by his mother.

After the war, Ford and some of his family members would take impromptu late night trips to Washington, D.C. Once they became lost in the city and climbed to the top of the Washington Monument to determine which road would lead them out of the city. He was married to Shirley Hogan Nichols, and they had four children. He opened a television repair shop behind their home and eventually opened Nick's Electronic and Appliance in Altavista. At the age of 75, he moved to Amherst where he designed and built from the ground up his last home. He was a member of and Sunday school teacher at White's United Methodist Church. He designed, oversaw and helped with the construction of their fellowship hall when he was 80. After moving to the Amherst area, he worked at Lowe's in Madison Heights where he retired in 2011, one month shy of his 88th birthday. On Friday, July 12, 2013 Nick passed away at the age of 90.

Ford was predeceased by three brothers, Osbey Nichols, Luther Nichols, Lewis Nichols, and four sisters, Bessie Hudson, Jennie Mays, Catherine Kell, and Pearl Hodnett.

All of his children and their spouses survive him, Steve and Sheila Nichols of Dublin, Ohio, Donna and Gary Hicks of North Carolina, Cathy and James Cocke of Lynchburg, Virginia, and Walter and Janet Nichols of Mebane, NC . His grandchildren and their spouses are Chad and Rachel Nichols, Brian and Melinda Nichols, Melissa White, Lauren Colbert, Bethany Milam, and Matthew Colbert. He has nine great-grandchildren.

Wherever he lived, the birds and squirrels never went hungry. He was kind to all animals and was especially fond of cats. At night, he would fix a bowl of ice cream for himself, and one bowl for each of his cats.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to the building fund for the Lynchburg Humane Society, 3305 Naval Reserve Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24501.

The family would like to thank Seven Hills Hospice and the staff at Runk and Pratt on Leesville Road for their outstanding care and compassion.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Monday, July 15, 2013 at Finch and Finch Chapel, Altavista by the Rev. Carl Weiser. Interment will follow in New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery with military honors by the Marine Corps Honor Detail and American Legion Post 36.

The family will receive friends from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sunday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista.

Cemetery Details

New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery

509 Prospect Rd.
Hurt, VA 24563

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Altavista
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Funeral Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

CE

“ *Carl East lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Carl East - July 18, 2013 at 09:34 PM

BP

“ *Steve,*

Please accept our deepest condolences in the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time.

The Management Team of the Brockville Plant

Brockville Plant - July 15, 2013 at 11:14 AM

RF

“ *Steve & Donna,*

Our prayers are with you all. Read of the passing of your dad this morning. Remembering him and all of you brings a smile to my heart. To a brother Marine, Semper Fi.

*Roger T. Farmer
Col USMC (RET)*

Roger T. Farmer - July 15, 2013 at 08:19 AM

AH

“ Steve, Donna, Cathy and Walter, my love and prayers are with you all. I have many fond memories of our Uncle Ford. I spent many nights at your house as a child and cherish the time and love that was given to me. The last time that I saw Ford was at Lowes, he still called me "Little Angie", at my ripe older age. I remember watching him light the fireplace so many times at the house in Jasper Woods. I still have a beautiful wooden plaque that he took me down to his shop in the basement and made for me one night. He always asked if I still had that plaque, my reply, I would not take a million for it. I love you all.

Angie

Angela Hutcherson - July 14, 2013 at 09:43 PM

SB

“ Sue & Edwin Blackstock lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols



Sue & Edwin Blackstock - July 14, 2013 at 05:20 PM

RC

“ Ray & Kay Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols



Ray & Kay Caldwell - July 14, 2013 at 03:40 PM

RC

Mr. Nichols was a very good friend to us and our family. He believed in us when we were very young and always had that laugh and hug. We'll always remember his friendship.

Ray and Kay Caldwell - July 14, 2013 at 03:47 PM

DC

“ Deborah Caughey lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols



Deborah caughey - July 14, 2013 at 12:55 PM

DR

“ Ford gave me my first real job' after graduating from high school. To this day, I have not had a job, that every day, was a day of fun and enjoyment. Ford and Shirley were like my second parents. Ford will be greatly missed. Love' Dennis Rowland

Dennis Rowland - July 14, 2013 at 10:07 AM

PW

*“ In our thoughts and prayers
Paula and wayne walden jr*

paula walden - July 14, 2013 at 07:35 AM

AP

“ Cathy and Family ~ Your father was a fine Christian man who was loved and respected by many. Be blessed by his legacy and memory. Anita Freeman Phillips



Anita Freeman Phillips - July 14, 2013 at 05:48 AM

TS

“ *Tina Saunders-Gray lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Tina Saunders-Gray - July 13, 2013 at 08:24 PM

GR

“ *Geneieve Rowland lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Geneieve Rowland - July 13, 2013 at 05:00 PM

MW

“ *My papa was a great man. I loved him very much. I am proud to say I was related to that man. Papa I know you are watching over us. My children Sarah sabrina Samantha and Matthew will miss their great grandpa very much.*

melissa white-perez - July 13, 2013 at 03:14 PM

MW

“ *Melissa White-perez lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



melissa white-perez - July 13, 2013 at 03:08 PM

TS

“ *Tammy Sexton lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Tammy Sexton - July 13, 2013 at 01:23 PM



“ *Robert Finch lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Robert Finch - July 13, 2013 at 12:50 PM

RW

“ *Ralph Woods lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Ralph Woods - July 13, 2013 at 11:51 AM

AR

“ *Annie Lee Roark lit a candle in memory of Ford Amos Nichols*



Annie Lee Roark - July 13, 2013 at 11:36 AM

AR

For a special uncle that shared many good memories.

Annie Lee Roark - July 13, 2013 at 11:38 AM

SI

Ford and his brother Osbey were two of my father's (Shannon Nichols Sr.) favorite cousins.

Shannon Nichols Jr.

Shannon Nichols II - July 13, 2013 at 04:25 PM

NR

“ *So sorry to hear about Ford. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*



Nancy Roark - July 13, 2013 at 10:32 AM

TH

Sorry for your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Tommy&Shirley Hutcherson - July 13, 2013 at 12:59 PM