



Harold Thornton Cothran Jr.

November 16, 1938 - January 16, 2022

Harold Thornton Cothran, Jr., 83, of Moneta died Sunday, January 16, 2022, at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital.

He was born November 16, 1938, in Lynchburg, a son of the late Harold Thornton Cothran, Sr. and Kathryn Doss Cothran. He was a very proud graduate of Virginia Tech where he received his degree in business and studied engineering and was a member of the Hightie Tighties band and played the saxophone. He also served in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Harold was a Hokie Club member and an avid VA Tech fan for over 50 years. His favorite VT football activity was preparing and drinking a Bloody Mary. For his 80th birthday Harold got to meet the Hokie Bird.

He married Shirley Harman and had two daughters that have survived him, Karen Cothran George of Altavista and Dawn Cothran Hatcher married to Bruce Hatcher of Raleigh, NC; four grandchildren, James George, Joshua George, Christian Hatcher, and Dustin Hatcher; and fiancé, Sandra Robertson of Gretna.

He was preceded in death by a brother, John David Cothran and survived by David's wife Ashby Cothran.

Harold was the President of J.H. Cothran in Altavista. Over his career he was

a leader and mentor to hundreds of people in the contracting business. In 2001 he joined Kreider, Ayers & Associates, now Kreider Mechanical, Inc., as Vice President and Estimator. Harold loved contracting and was tireless when it came to estimating. He loved that part of the business and was excellent at it. In 2009 Harold decided to retire. Retirement lasted about 6 weeks. Harold returned to "part time" work which continued up until a few days before his recent hospitalization. He could not play enough golf to stay as busy as he wanted. Also, he did not play in the cold. Golf was a warm weather sport to Harold.

During his contracting career he served as President of the VA Associated General Contractors and was active in the Plumbing Heating & Cooling Contractors. Harold loved listening to beach music, beach music concerts and dancing with "his darling" Sandra. He also greatly enjoyed trips to Ocean Isle Beach.

Harold loved the game of golf and spent much of his free time with friends and his brother David on the golf course. Harold's problem with golf was his "practice swing" was far better than his "actual swing." When discussing a specific event in the past the conversation usually started with "I was driving a... He always knew the make, model, color, and size engine of the car he was driving. He had an amazing memory!!

He also loved boating and loved to pull his kids and their friends skiing. It would not be surprising to see his boat with 5 or 6 girls skiing behind at one time. He was definitely one of the original Girl Dads. He will be remembered most for his love of his family and friends, southern gentleman nature and die-hard support of the Virginia Tech Hokies.

Harold always had time to help someone whether it was business related or personal. Once your friend he was your friend forever. Not a huge fan of

technology, he would use voicemail and you always knew when it was Harold because his messages always started "Hey partner, this is Harold." Or "hey girls, this is Dad."

A funeral service will be conducted at 2:00 pm., Monday, January 24, 2022, at Lane Memorial United Methodist Church by the Rev. Ben Horrocks with interment to follow in Green Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 until 5:30 p.m., Sunday at Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider a donation to JDRF - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 3805 Cutshaw Ave., Richmond, VA 23230 or Multiple Sclerosis Society, 1100 New York Ave., Ste. 600, Washington, DC 20005.

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive
Altavista, VA 24517

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **23**. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JAN **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lane Memorial United Methodist Church
1201 Bedford Avenue
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr.*



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - January 19, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr..*



January 23, 2022 at 10:25 PM



“ *Karen and Dawn,
My heart hurts for you two! Nothing in life prepares you to live in a world without your daddy!! I credit your dad to my love of VT. Loading up the whole Old Pocket Rd gang and taking us to football games ultimately led me to going to school there.
Hugs and lots of love to your entire family!*



Marlo Henderson - January 23, 2022 at 07:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr..*



January 22, 2022 at 11:54 AM



“ *Anita Freeman Phillips lit a candle in memory of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr.*



Anita Freeman Phillips - January 20, 2022 at 10:18 PM



“ *Karen, Dawn, and Families,
We were so saddened to learn of Harold's passing.
We remember so many years ago when your family were our neighbors how much he loved Christmas and family get togethers.
Kenny has talked frequently about what a great mentor he was when they worked together at the family business and how much he learned from him. May God's love and the many family memories sustain you during the months to come.
In Love and Sympathy,
Kenny and Joan*

Joan Woodson - January 20, 2022 at 07:03 PM

KW

“ *Karen, Dawn and Families,
We were so saddened to learn of Harold's passing. We have many fond memories of your family living next door to us all those years ago. Your Dad was always so excited about Christmas and so enjoyed family reunions. Kenny has talked fondly about what a great mentor he was at the family business and how much he taught him early on in his career. May God's love and your many fond memories sustain you in the months to come.
In Sympathy and Love,
Kenny and Joan*

Ken and Woodson - January 20, 2022 at 06:26 PM

CS

“ *Karan & Family, I was so sorry for your loss. Love, Thoughts, and Prayers go out for you, and your family. You have my Sympathy.
Clara Smith & Family*



Clara Smith - January 20, 2022 at 02:15 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr..*



January 20, 2022 at 10:55 AM

MR

“ Karen,

We were sadden to hear of the passing of your father. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Wishing strength for today and comfort in the days ahead for you and your family.

Co-workers at LRHA

Maryland Robinson - January 19, 2022 at 04:15 PM

GW

“ Sorry for your loss. Prayers

Gwenda Willard - January 19, 2022 at 03:39 PM

RH

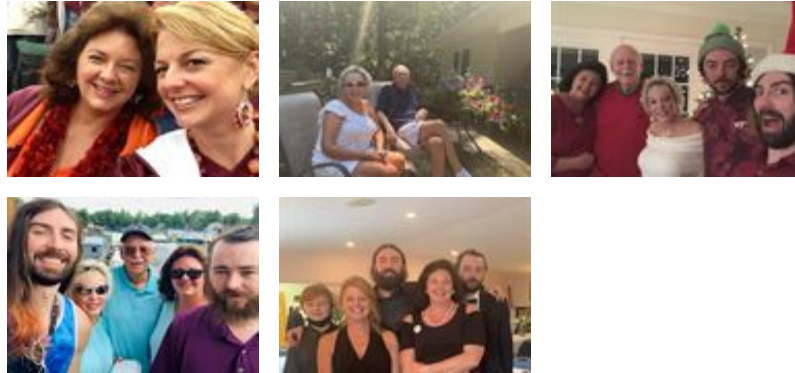
“ *i had the pleasure of working with Harold at Kreider Mechanical. Haven't seen him in a couple of years. I want his family to know what a good person he was. I had the most respect for him and loved when he came in the office of the morning he would take his plans into his office and he would come back out and come in my office and say how is Ms Becky this morning..I am so sorry for his passing and you are in my prayers*

Becky Howery

Rebecca Marie Howery - January 19, 2022 at 12:58 PM



“ 90 files added to the album Life Tributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - January 19, 2022 at 12:55 PM

NR

“ Nancy Roark lit a candle in memory of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr.



Nancy Roark - January 19, 2022 at 09:29 AM

NR

Fond memories come rushing back of my days at J. H. Cothran Company with Harold, Jr. and all the fine folks there. Karen and Dawn, I am sure you have fond memories also. My prayers are with you and your Families.

Nancy Roark - January 20, 2022 at 08:41 AM

BC

“ *To The Family and Friends,*

Take Comfort in all your Happy Memories.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Butch & Glenna W. Carr*



Butch and Glenna W Carr - January 18, 2022 at 07:12 PM

CS

“ *Christine Schwitzerlett lit a candle in memory
of Harold Thornton Cothran Jr.*



Christine Schwitzerlett - January 18, 2022 at 07:03 PM

AK

“ *Thoughts and prayers for all the family and
friends.. class of 1958 Alice krantz keesee*



Alice krantz keesee - January 18, 2022 at 04:09 PM

PP

“ *Pat Puckette lit a candle in memory of Harold
Thornton Cothran Jr.*



Pat Puckette - January 18, 2022 at 03:21 PM