



## Jesse Robert Childress

August 3, 1932 - September 19, 2024

Jesse Robert "Bob" Childress, 92, of Altavista died Thursday, September 19, 2024 at Autumn Care of Altavista. He was the husband of the late Janet Lee Kelly Childress.

He was born August 3, 1932 in Bastian, a son of the late Taulby Basil Childress and Nellie Jane Walker Childress.

Bob graduated from Rocky Gap High School and then served in the Army's elite Old Guard at Ft. Meyer, VA. After he married, he and his wife settled in Ravenswood, WV, where Bob was employed in providing safety for workers at Kaiser Aluminum. After finishing an associate's degree, Bob became a Personnel Manager for Crown Aluminum, Burlington Industries, and BGF. He retired from the Altavista BGF plant in 1998. He served as president of the North Carolina American Society of Safety Engineers.

Bob lived a life of service to his community. He and his wife, Janet, were beloved members of First Baptist Church of Altavista, where Bob served as Deacon and a Sunday School teacher for many years. Both he and Janet were life-long supporters of The Arc and Sheltered Workshops, including the Otter River Resource Center. Bob was president of the Altavista Chamber of Commerce and served on the Management Relations Committee of the VA Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the board at the Avoca

Museum. He was a Mason for 59 years, most recently associated with Campbell 316. Over the years, he worked tirelessly in Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. Bob also loved music and trout fishing.

He is survived by his daughter, Melanie (Mark Reuter); a grandson, Joshua (Laryssa), a granddaughter, Mary (Brian Waite); three great-grandchildren, Lily, Eli and Dylan; a special companion, Doris Meadows Strader; her son, Walter (Jerusha); her grandchildren, Ashley (Brian Ingram), Jordan Strader and Kevin, Eli, Teadora and Victoria Kazmier; a great-grandson, Everett; and honorary daughter-in-law, Tammy Clay.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Wayne Childress.

A funeral service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, September 21, 2024 at First Baptist Church of Altavista by Rev. Alden Gallimore, Rev. Dr. Michael Lee, Rev. Kirby Smith, Rev. Laura Smith and Rev. Mark Reuter with interment to follow in Green Hill Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Appomattox Post 104.

The family will receive friends beginning one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, Bob requested that donations be made to the Avoca Museum and Historical Society, 1514 Main Steet, Altavista, VA 24517 or First Baptist Church, 1001 Bedford Avenue, Altavista, VA 24517.

A special thanks to the First Baptist Church of Altavista for their care of the Childress family over the past 30 years.

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

arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
1001 Bedford Ave.  
Altavista, VA 24517

## Funeral Service

SEP 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
1001 Bedford Ave.  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Tribute Wall



“ I am saddened to learn of Bob’s passing but I know he was a good Christian man who is now with his Lord and Savior. I worked with Bob for many years at Burlington and BGF. I pray for comfort and peace for his family. Mac Calhoun.

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**Mac Calhoun** - September 20, 2024 at 11:17 PM



“ Bob was a wonderful man with a beautiful spirit. We were blessed to have known him. He's in God's arms now, our loss is Heaven's gain. Bob's family and friends are in our prayers.

*Chip & Betty Cherry*

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**Chip Cherry** - September 20, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ To Melanie and Family, I am so deeply sorry or your loss of your Dad. Bob was always such a uplifting person and always enjoyed the time I spent with him. Bob will always be remembered as you and the rest of the family. I think of you all often. Prayers and sympathy in the days, weeks and months ahead. God Bless you all always,

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**Cathy Worsham** - September 20, 2024 at 09:59 AM

LR

“ Condolences to the Bob Childress family. I'm sorry to hear of his passing. He truly had a life of service to our community. When I was hired by CVCC in 2000, he met with me to tell me about Altavista and the local area. He also gave me a list of folks to contact, including the plant managers and/or human resource directors. That helped me tremendously in my position at the Altavista Center. May he RIP forever.

Linda Rodriguez - September 19, 2024 at 09:52 PM

JW

“ Dear Family,  
I had the privilege of volunteering and serving on the board with Bob at Avoca Museum. He was a true southern gentleman who showed kindness to everyone and was a devoted humble servant. Sincere condolences to you all,  
Joan Woodson

Joan Woodson - September 19, 2024 at 09:13 PM

KK

“ It was an honor to care for Mr. Childress. He had such a big faith!  
He was truly a blessing!

Kay Kiger - September 19, 2024 at 06:36 PM

JR

“ Jay Rice lit a candle in memory of Jesse Childress



Jay Rice - September 19, 2024 at 06:06 PM

CL

“ *Charity Lambert lit a candle in memory of Jesse Childress*



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**Charity Lambert** - September 19, 2024 at 02:35 PM

BD

“ *Bob was always so kind to us when we were selling popcorn. He was one of the folks we missed on our annual popcorn visit when we left BSA. He was great to chat with and since we share a birthday, that usually came up. Rest in peace Bob.*

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**Brian Davis** - September 19, 2024 at 02:32 PM

BB

“ *Bob was a co-worker ,friend and n brother in Christ , may he rest in peace .*

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**Bud Brown** - September 19, 2024 at 02:14 PM

JM

“ *Jimmy marr lit a candle in memory of Jesse Childress*



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**Jimmy marr** - September 19, 2024 at 01:47 PM

RJ

“ *Bob will be missed by many and we all are truly thankful for knowing him. Bob had the ability to bring so much good into the life of all that knew him.*

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**Richard Johnson** - September 19, 2024 at 01:32 PM