



## Lester Gene Woodie

September 20, 1931 - March 23, 2018

Lester Gene Woodie, 86, of Lynchburg went to meet his lord and savior Friday, March 23, 2018 at Lynchburg General Hospital. Leaving to cherish his memory is Mary his wife for sixty-two years.

He was born September 20, 1931 in Valdese, NC, a son of the late Loggins Woodie and Lucy Mildred Woodie. From an early age Les loved bluegrass music, starting to play at the age of eight. That love and passion for music stayed with him his entire life. Even while he was in the Air Force serving in the Philippines in the 50's he had a band and played at the officer's club. Prior to that, one of the things he was most proud of was the opportunity to play with Ralph and Carter Stanley. He played the fiddle on their world recording of "Man of Constant Sorrow" in the mid 50's. He moved to Altavista, Virginia having been a native of North Carolina in 1962 with the radio station WKDE. He worked there as a station manager for forty-seven years. Les was a member of the Altavista Presbyterian Church where he served on the session and always ready to help when his music talent was needed. Over the years he was active in different clubs and community endeavors, particularly the radio station's "Christmas Basket" done annually to support the less fortunate in the community. One of the highlights of his musical career was in April of 2002 when he was inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame in Owensboro, Kentucky and for several summers where he was master instructor of the traditional and Appalachian bluegrass at Augusta Heritage Center of the Davis

and Elkin College in West Virginia.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Phillip Woodie and his wife Holly of New Canaan, CT and Gregory Woodie of Danville; one daughter, Patricia Woodie of Lynchburg; one sister, Karen Childers and her husband Bill of Valdese, NC; and three grandchildren Jenny Jones of Madison Heights, Tatum and Ashton Woodie of New Canaan, CT.

He was preceded in death by a brother Lloyd Woodie.

A funeral service will be conducted at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 29, 2018 at Altavista Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Eduardo Soto with interment to follow in Green Hill Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Altavista Memorial Post 36 and Gretna Post 232.

The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m., Wednesday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider Altavista Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 126, Altavista, VA 24517, The Alzheimer's Association, Central and Western Virginia Chapter, 1160 Pepsi Place, Suite 306, Charlottesville, VA 22901 or Lynchburg Humane Society, 3305 Navel Reserve Road, Lynchburg, VA 24501.

# Cemetery Details

## Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 28. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

MAR 29. 3:00 PM (ET)

Altavista Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 126  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



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**Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service** - March 27, 2018 at 12:42 PM

GF

“ *My name is Gregory Ferguson. I lived in Evington Va. in the late 60,s I played drums in a band called The Shady Valley Boys. Lester at the time was at WKDE Altavista Va. He was an excellent fiddle player should have been in Nashville . It was an honer to know him and play with him. I am now 74 and live in Louisville TN. But he was a wonderful person to know.*

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**Gregory Ferguson** - November 28, 2025 at 01:12 PM

MG

“ *Mary and family, just wanted you to know that our thoughts and prayers have been with all of you this past week. Miss not seeing you in the neighborhood. Hope all will be .well with you in the future. Our love, Johnny and Mittie Gay*

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**Mittie Gay** - March 31, 2018 at 09:46 AM

SB

“ Sending sincere sympathy to Mary annd family on the passing of their beloved Les. They were wonderful neighbors of ours when they lived on Jasperwood Drive and Les and I shared the profession of radio advertising. May God give you peace as you face the difficult days ahead. Sending a hug!

Shirley M. Bailey - March 30, 2018 at 10:47 AM

BG

“ Mary, I am so sorry to read of Les's passing. He was such a lovely person and I can still hear his voice on the radio now,. Prayers for you and the family.



Betty and Bill Gillespie - March 29, 2018 at 09:40 PM

WP

“ Les was a fine bluegrass fiddle player that played with The Tunstall Trio, bluegrass gospel group from Danville Virginia, on one of our albums and played with us at various shows and gospel outings. Les will truly missed by all who knew him but he is with his Lord and Saviour now and playing the fiddle in Heaven with Ken Bentley now! May God richly bless your family at this time of sorrow. Looking forward to seeing you again one day! Wayne Powell



Wayne Powell - March 28, 2018 at 04:44 PM



and I remember announcing on shows with you guys.when I saw the name Ken Pentley I felt a spine tingle.can't remember the other Powells names

Lonnie Jones - March 29, 2018 at 04:47 PM

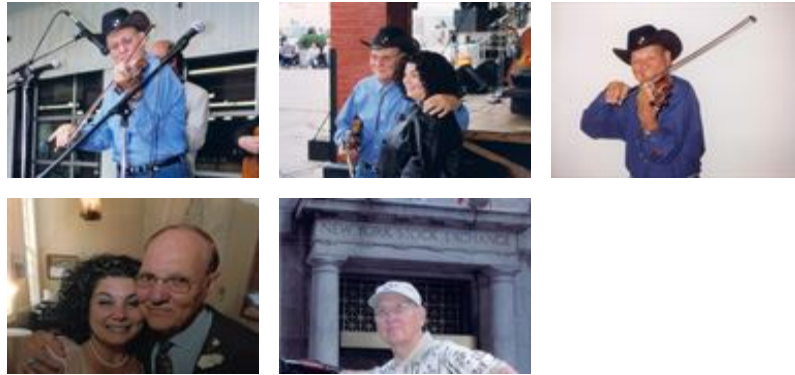
BC

“ I remember listening to Les as a child growing up in Hurt Virginia. My Mother loved to hear him also, She was one of the recipients of the Christmas basket after my Father passed away. I rode the school bus with his daughter at Gretna High. I am sorry to hear of his passing. May God give you the comfort that only he can. Bessie (Bradner) Cox  
Anderson, S.C.

Bessie Cox - March 28, 2018 at 01:23 PM



“ 87 files added to the album Life Tributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - March 28, 2018 at 08:25 AM

BM

Les was a kind, humble, and faithful friend who showed the love of Jesus to everyone he met.  
Our love, thoughts, and prayers for Mary and the family.

Brenda and Charles Mocsiran - March 28, 2018 at 10:19 AM

DH

“ *Mary & Family*  
*Les was such a kind and gentle man. He will be missed by all that knew him. I know he is in a good place now. Mary, you were so patient with him and I know your memories of a life with him will bring you comfort in the days ahead.*

Debbie Hutcherson - March 27, 2018 at 08:29 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Lester Gene Woodie .*



March 27, 2018 at 07:31 PM



Kenneth  
Benton

“ *Hollywood*



Kenneth Benton - March 27, 2018 at 02:34 AM

BH

“ *When Jenny came to sing with us in the Blue Newt Band, Les was quick to ask Wayne Wood .. "Who are those 'fellers' that Jenny wants to sing with?" 😊 Several years later he came to my studio to record and we had a grand time. It was an honor and pleasure to have met Les.*

Bob Harvey - March 26, 2018 at 09:57 PM

MT

“ Mike, Kim, & Hannah Towler lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Mike, Kim, & Hannah Towler - March 26, 2018 at 08:53 PM

MA

“ Marian sent a virtual gift in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Marian - March 26, 2018 at 12:01 PM

MA

“ Marian lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Marian - March 26, 2018 at 12:00 PM

AR

“ Listened to the station the whole time of Les & enjoyed it every time. We need more music like that. Ann Rigney

ann rgney - March 26, 2018 at 11:24 AM

AR

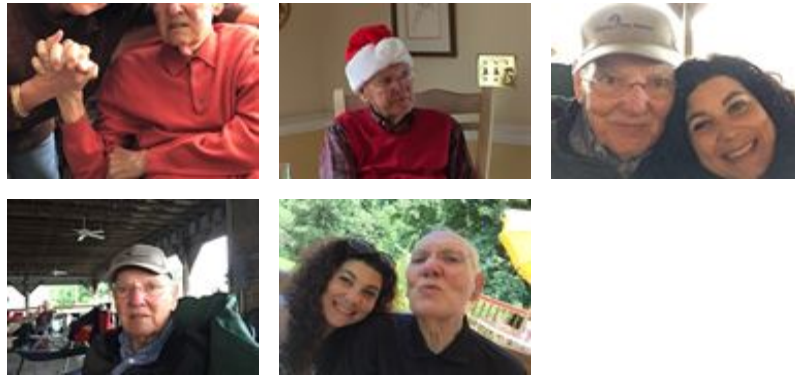
“ Ann Rgney lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



ann rgney - March 26, 2018 at 11:19 AM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - March 26, 2018 at 10:34 AM

NJ

*never be another les. a kind gentle man.i had the honor of staying with les for mary to go out some and he would often ask me where has my pretty mary going, when will she be back? two wonderful people. a perfect couple*

nancy james - March 28, 2018 at 09:08 PM

BG

“ Bruce & Angie Gledhill lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Bruce & Angie Gledhill - March 26, 2018 at 10:24 AM

VG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Vicki Guthrie - March 26, 2018 at 10:19 AM

BC

“ *Butch & Glenna W. Carr lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



Butch & Glenna W. Carr - March 25, 2018 at 10:17 PM

JH

“ *Deepest sympathy to his family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jackie and Jimmy Hunt - March 25, 2018 at 09:42 PM

HT

“ *Wink, Trish, Greg, Phillip and Jenny,  
Your Father, Our Best Man, was just that. He was the true meaning  
if the word Gentle-man. I had never heard a sweeter voice or a  
father with that much love and protection in his heart. I hope my  
son, his grandson, Ashton grows up to be just like him. We will love  
you and keep you alive in our hearts forever.*

holly thiel - March 25, 2018 at 07:53 PM

JW

“ Trish and family I'm sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

Joe Wilkins - March 25, 2018 at 04:38 PM

DH

“ So sorry for your loss, thoughts and prayers with you and your family.

Doris harris - March 25, 2018 at 03:09 PM

PK

“ PAT KIZER lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



PAT KIZER - March 25, 2018 at 02:38 PM

LM

“ Lucinda Mattox lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Lucinda Mattox - March 25, 2018 at 01:30 PM

PK

so sorry for your loss enjoyed the visits we had Mary, will be praying for you

PAT KIZER - March 25, 2018 at 02:41 PM



“ *Mary, Trish, Phil and Greg,  
I was hired to do the mornings at WKDE in 1984 and did them until 1988. Les was to be my boss, but he never seemed to be. We would talk and he would suggest things. Never 'Lonnie you are gonna do it this way'. I did not appreciate that, as I should have, until I left and had other bosses. I loved you Les, and have wished, many times, I had never left. Play that fiddle man with Carter and and Ralph again.*

Lonnie Jones - March 25, 2018 at 01:27 PM

MC

“ *Melanie Creger lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



Melanie Creger - March 25, 2018 at 12:42 PM

TW

“ *TRISH WOODIE lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



TRISH WOODIE - March 25, 2018 at 11:49 AM



*Trish, please email me lonniefjones@WebTV.net*

Lonnie Jones - March 25, 2018 at 01:19 PM



*I posted 2 pics of Les, hope that is ok*

Lonnie Jones - March 25, 2018 at 01:19 PM

BJ

“ I had the honor of meeting Les Woodie at Ralph Stanley's Memorial Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival, 2008. He was happy to be there and honored by Dr.Ralph Stanley himself. He was very kind as I tried to say how much I appreciated his contribution to The First Generation of Bluegrass music. I shall honor his memory on my radio show next week.

Sadly,

Becky Johnson AKA mrsBLUEGrass



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**Becky Johnson** - March 25, 2018 at 10:57 AM

NW

“ Nancy Wyatt lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



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**Nancy Wyatt** - March 25, 2018 at 10:39 AM

TB

“ Wonderful memories in the company and hospitality of Les and Mary.  
Sending prayers to all family and friends. Know you are loved. Les will  
live on in the hearts of many. Big hugs especially to Mary and Tricia  
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**Tobie Church Bentz** - March 25, 2018 at 10:01 AM

PC

“ *Ms. Woodie, I was saddened to hear of Mr. Woodie's passing. I often play the CDs that you gave me of his music in my truck. My condolences to your family.*

Patricia Conner - March 25, 2018 at 08:43 AM

PW

“ *In Our Thoughts and Prayers . Paula & Wayne Walden Jr.*



Paula Walden - March 25, 2018 at 07:09 AM

PJ

“ *Paula & Wayne Walden Jr. lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



Paula & Wayne Walden Jr. - March 25, 2018 at 07:07 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Lonnie Jones - March 25, 2018 at 06:25 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Lonnie Jones** - March 25, 2018 at 06:20 AM

VB

“ *Thoughts and prayers.*

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**Vicki Andrews Barilla** - March 25, 2018 at 12:24 AM

CN

“ *Chuck Newman lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



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**Chuck Newman** - March 24, 2018 at 10:15 PM

LM

“ *Mary, Trisha, Phil and Greg.. We are so sorry to hear of Les's passing. Joey and I have fond memories of Les and appreciate the dedication and love he had for WKDE. There is no doubt, "Katy" was a better place because of Les and his leadership. Please know we are thinking and praying for all of you and hope the good memories will comfort you during this difficult time.*

*Joey Gray, Linda Gray Manis and Nancy Gray*

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**linda manis** - March 24, 2018 at 09:41 PM

RC

“ *Ruth Cox lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



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**Ruth Cox** - March 24, 2018 at 08:49 PM

NJ

“ *mary, I am so sorry about les. he was one special person and he will be missed but always remembered. the last of the true southern gentlemen. love to all of you.*

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**nancy james** - March 24, 2018 at 08:04 PM

GW

“ *Gwenda Willard lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie*



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**Gwenda Willard** - March 24, 2018 at 07:39 PM

RW

“ *There's more pickin' and Les singing with the Angels! All of Heaven is enjoying the show! Fly high my friend- fly high! Love to you Mary and family.*

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**Rayetta Webb** - March 24, 2018 at 07:15 PM

TH

“ Tommy&Shirley Hutcherson lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Tommy&Shirley Hutcherson - March 24, 2018 at 05:48 PM

JF

“ Mary, I'm so very sorry. Hugs to you all. I'm out of to n and will catch up with you when I return. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Judy Finch - March 24, 2018 at 05:18 PM

RD

“ Robert & Bonnie Dawson lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Robert & Bonnie Dawson - March 24, 2018 at 05:07 PM

SA

“ Sue Ashwell lit a candle in memory of Lester Gene Woodie



Sue Ashwell - March 24, 2018 at 04:38 PM