



## Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.

April 16, 1930 - September 14, 2020

Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer, Jr., 90, of 1611 Avondale Drive, Altavista died Monday, September 14, 2020 at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Velma Janice Lea Farmer for sixty-nine years.

He was born April 16, 1930 in Lynchburg, a son of the late Marvin A. Farmer, Sr. and Louise Phillips Farmer. He was a member of Franconia Baptist Church in Alexandria, the D.A.V., the Vietnam Helicopter Association, the Purple Heart Association, and a former member of V.F.W. #4155. M.A. entered the U.S. Army at the age of seventeen rising to the rank of Master Sergeant at the age of twenty-one. He served in the Korean Conflict from 1951-1952 while receiving the Purple Heart December 1, 1951. He became an Army Aviator in 1956 and served in Germany from 1958-1961, then serving two tours in the Vietnam War as a helicopter pilot in 1961-1962 and a fixed wing pilot from 1968-1969. After a distinguished career, which spanned twenty-seven years and a recipient of the Bronze Star, he retired in 1974. After his retirement from the military, he moved to Altavista and worked as a Trust Officer Auditor and Branch Manager for First National Bank. Later, he was the co-owner of Staunton River Hardware from 1978-1981.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, David Wayne Farmer and his wife, Karen of Warrenton and Thomas Marvin Farmer of Hurt; two special children, foster son, Derek Catron and foster daughter, Samantha Catron

Owen; a sister, Sandra Farmer Maschal; two grandsons, Dustin David Farmer and Derek Ryan Farmer; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, William "Billy" Hoskins Farmer and James Walter Farmer.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2020 at Finch and Finch Chapel, Altavista by Pastor Matt Gaston. Entombment will follow in Altavista Memorial Park with military honors.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from noon until 12:45 p.m., at the funeral home and other times at the residence.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider the Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 6675-8516.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Altavista Memorial Park Mausoleum

642 Wards Road  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **18**. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

SEP **18**. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*



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**Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service** - September 18, 2020 at 08:38 AM

SJ

“ *Marvin I will miss your lively sense of humor, and your fearless stand on what you believe is right in this world.  
May God Bless Your Family,  
Sandy Jacquemin*

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**Sandra Jacquemin** - September 24, 2020 at 05:08 PM

JR

“ *Mr Farmer was a very interesting individual. His memories of being a helicopter pilot was something that he was very proud of. He was always smiling and glad to meet people. I wish his family the best. J. Robertson*

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**jim robertson** - September 22, 2020 at 08:05 AM

RM

“ Sending love to all of you, wish we were closer to be there. Uncle M.A. was the light of the family. He entertained us always but had a huge heart. Will keep all of you in our prayers.



Robin and Bill Menhart - September 21, 2020 at 01:42 PM

LR

“ LARRY ROACH lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



LARRY ROACH - September 20, 2020 at 04:51 PM

HH

“ I count it a PRIVILEGE to have known M.A.Farmer ! I had nothing but respect and admiration for him. Many, many thanks for the sacrifices he and his family made for this country ! Rest In Peace M.A. until we meet again .

Helen D. Hamlett - September 20, 2020 at 10:24 AM

EC

“ Ellyn Cox lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Ellyn Cox - September 18, 2020 at 07:53 PM

LB

“ I’m so saddened at the loss of Uncle M.A.; like my dad (his brother), he was a career military man who deeply loved his family and country. He exemplified honor, service and patriotism; he felt, believed and loved strongly — and wasn’t afraid to let everyone know it. I will miss him very much; his was an honest, loyal and dedicated soul. Love y’all, Thom, David and Aunt Janice 🙏🙏🙏

**Lisa Rhae Burgess** - September 17, 2020 at 06:44 PM

AG

“ Andrew&Judy Guthrie lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



**Andrew&Judy Guthrie** - September 17, 2020 at 05:01 PM

LD

“ We are so sorry to learn of Marvin's passing. Marvin was such a special friend of ours and we enjoyed his company over the years. He always made you laugh. We will miss him. Prayers for you, Janice, and family that God will give you comfort and strength during this time. Leslie & Peggy Dishon



**Leslie Dishon** - September 17, 2020 at 02:48 PM

MF

“ *Margie Freeman lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*



Margie Freeman - September 16, 2020 at 05:58 PM

LM

“ *So sorry Janice and family loved Marvin took 2 candles to light the way for him love ya 🙏🙏❤❤*

Lucinda Mattox - September 16, 2020 at 02:13 PM

LM

“ *Lucinda Mattox lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*

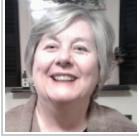


Lucinda Mattox - September 16, 2020 at 02:07 PM

LH

“ *Fly high M A ... you are going to be sadly missed ... Pam and Lawrence ❤❤*

lawrence hyman - September 16, 2020 at 12:39 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.* ”



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**Vickie Cocke** - September 16, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Marvin's passing! Prayers to you, Janice, Tom and David. Working with Marvin was always entertaining with all his stories! Loved his Patriotism! Such fond memories of him!* ”

*Cindy and Steven Dunnavant*

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**Cynthia Waller Dunnavant** - September 16, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ *Janice's and family. So sorry for your loss. He was always so kind and friendly to me and mine. Prayers and hugs* ”

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**Wanda P. Goodman** - September 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss Janice and family. Hugs to you all. Marvin was always a joy to be around. God bless you all* ”

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**Wanda P. Goodman** - September 16, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers Thom. D.W. Berry* ”

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**Dixon Berry** - September 16, 2020 at 09:33 AM

VB

“ Virginia Barbour lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Virginia Barbour - September 16, 2020 at 07:54 AM

SD

“ Scott Davis lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Scott Davis - September 16, 2020 at 02:41 AM

CP

“ Chris Pickeral lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Chris Pickeral - September 16, 2020 at 12:26 AM

CP

“ Mr. Farmer has been my neighbor for most of my life. I'll always remember his kind, encouraging words to me and my family. I'll never forget his great sense of humor. He always made me laugh. My prayers go out for his family.

Chris Pickeral - September 15, 2020 at 09:09 PM

SK

“ Thom - So sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Thinking of you and your family.



Susan Krantz - September 15, 2020 at 08:59 PM

SP

“ Prayers for the family. Thinking of you Janice!



Sally Pate - September 15, 2020 at 08:24 PM

DV

“ Dale Vaughan lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Dale Vaughan - September 15, 2020 at 07:43 PM

JC

“ Jane Carter lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Jane Carter - September 15, 2020 at 07:18 PM

BD

“ *Billy & Diane Davis lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*



**Billy & Diane Davis** - September 15, 2020 at 07:09 PM

KW

“ *Kathy And Ray Walker lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*



**Kathy and Ray Walker** - September 15, 2020 at 06:52 PM

OB

“ *Marvin was a hell of a guy, funny and very old school. I genuinely respected him!*



**Otto Brewer** - September 15, 2020 at 06:45 PM

LM

“ *Lucinda Mattox lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.*



**Lucinda Mattox** - September 15, 2020 at 06:05 PM

ME

“ Jan, so sorry to hear of the passing of Marvin. You all are in my thoughts & prayers at this time.

Mary Edmonds - September 15, 2020 at 05:38 PM

ME

“ Mary Edmonds lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Mary Edmonds - September 15, 2020 at 05:37 PM

D[

“ Dot Mitchell [Rorer] sent a virtual gift in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Dot Mitchell [Rorer] - September 15, 2020 at 04:46 PM

GW

“ Sorry for your loss. Prayers



Gwenda Willard - September 15, 2020 at 04:11 PM

DM

“ Dale Melton lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Dale Melton - September 15, 2020 at 03:44 PM

AH

“ Thom - I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad! Your family is in my thoughts and prayers!

Anne Harrison - September 15, 2020 at 01:51 PM

AH

“ Anne Harrison lit a candle in memory of Marvin Abshire "M.A." Farmer Jr.



Anne Harrison - September 15, 2020 at 01:50 PM

SF

“ MA was one of my favorite people. Always loved him . Rest In Peace dear friend. Praying for you Janice, Thom and David



Shirley Forloines - September 15, 2020 at 01:00 PM

AP

“ Thinking of the family with love and sympathy. ❤️

Anita Phillips - September 15, 2020 at 12:56 PM