



Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer

December 27, 1928 - January 9, 2015

Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer, 86, of Gladys died Friday, January 9, 2015 at his residence. He was the husband of Adelia Grace Hale Farmer for sixty three years.

He was born December 27, 1928 in Gladys, a son of the late Edgar Manly Farmer and Minnie Perrow Farmer. Happy was an active member of Kedron Baptist Church, serving as a deacon, choir member, Sunday School teacher and mentor to the young people of the church for many years. He also served on numerous committees, and was charter member of "The Brotherhood". A cattle farmer most of his life, he was member and Past President of the Campbell County Cattleman's Association. Happy was a community man, who took great joy in his friendships near and far.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Suzanne Farmer Jennings and her husband, W.G. "Jerry", Jennings, Jr. of Gladys; a son, David Lew Farmer and his wife, Leigh Ann Farmer of Novato, CA; four grandchildren, Ellie Jennings, Steven Jennings, Annie Jennings and Kaya Farmer; a sister, Louise Farmer Shorter and her husband Boyd of Vinton; a brother in law, Louis DeJarnette of Gladys and a sister in law, Barbara T. Farmer of Rustburg..

He was preceded in death by four brothers, William, Edgar, Robert and

Stephen Farmer and a sister, Virginia Farmer DeJarnette.

A funeral service will be conducted at 3:00 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2015 at Kedron Baptist Church, Gladys by the Rev. Shelton Miles and Rev. Brian Reynolds with interment to follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Sunday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Gladys.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider Centra Hospice of the Hills, 3300 Rivermont Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24503 or your favorite local charity.

Cemetery Details

Kedron Baptist Church Cemetery

7862 Brookneal HWY
Gladys, VA 24554

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Gladys
124 Flynn St.
Gladys, VA 24554

Funeral Service

JAN 12. 3:00 PM (ET)

Kedron Baptist Church
7862 Brookneal HWY
Gladys, VA 24554

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Marian sent a virtual gift in memory of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer*



Marian - January 04, 2021 at 08:01 PM

MA

“ *Marian lit a candle in memory of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer*



Marian - February 14, 2018 at 04:34 PM

LC

“ *My Dad, Calvin Carter , was Haps cousin and he spoke kindly of him. I met him at the store once, even went to his house with my Dad. He came to my Dads visitation and I enjoyed talking with him there.. We are sorry for your loss...*

Lee Perrow Carter - January 16, 2015 at 08:45 PM

DD

“ *Happy was one of the best men we have ever known. He was kind, gentle and wise. We will always value our memories of him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Grace, Suzanne, Dave and their families.*

Dave, Kristi, Kalyn & Derek Dolan

David Dolan - January 14, 2015 at 10:39 AM

RH

“ I have so many memories of Hap Farmer that I couldn't possibly pick just one to write about. I was fortunate enough to grow up as the Farmers' next door neighbor and Dave and I are the same age, so naturally we spent a lot of time together. Hap has always felt like a second father to me, and he would say that he thought of us as his "kids". I used to help him out on his farm pulling and tying tobacco or getting up hay and rocks from the fields of his beautiful farm. He was so interesting to talk to and always shared so many interesting stories. I wouldn't take anything for those stories and life lessons he shared. I thanked him a few weeks ago in the hospital for "sharing" his farm and lake and sleigh riding hill with us when we were kids and my daughter, Kari, when she was little as well. I will never be able to drive by the Farmer house and not feel his presence there around those barns. Hap and Grace have always made me feel loved and like a part of their family. Dave and Suzanne always felt like a brother and sister to myself and my two brothers. Hap was so proud of his children and grand children and loved giving updates on them when I did see him. Having lost my father a little over a year ago, I can certainly relate to the emotions and loss they are feeling right now. But, rest assured, we will see him again one day in Heaven. I'm sure he and Dad have already celebrated his "homecoming" together with the rest of his friends and family that preceded them. My love, thoughts and prayers go out to Grace, Suzanne, Dave and their families. He was a good, Godly, caring, genuine, sweet man and will be missed by many. The impact that he had on his community was evident by the outpouring of visitors he had at his home and family visitation. So many lives were touched by this man and I am proud to have known him.

Ricky Hamlet - January 13, 2015 at 04:38 PM

HG

“ I couldn't tell you how many times I fished Happy's pond... So many memories there with family & friends. The last time I was there was with my 6 year old son. & he asked about who owned the "big fish lake" as he calls it. & while I didn't personally know Mr. Farmer, I told my son "I don't know him that great Jacob, but he must be one awesome guy to let all these people fish here." & my son said "Yeah, Mom, you're right. I bet he is a really nice person.”



Reading through all of the comments brings me back to that day with my son & makes me smile now that I know more about Mr. Farmer & how much more there was to him, other than his "big fish lake".

*May God be with the family at this time of sorrow.
Rest in peace, Happy.
Thank you for all the memories.*

Heather & Jacob Granzow - January 13, 2015 at 02:31 PM

HA

“ I will always treasure my time with Happy. He was the best sunday school teacher ever.
My love goes out to Grace, Dave, and Suzanne. May he be in heaven in peace with mom. Love yall and wish i could be there.

Haley - January 13, 2015 at 04:32 AM

FJ

“ My mother, his first cousin, always spoke fondly about him. When I met him he lived up to the image she portrayed. He will be missed.
My sympathies to all of the family.
Freddy Heptinstall Jr.

Freddy Heptinstall Jr. - January 12, 2015 at 10:56 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer.*



January 12, 2015 at 08:25 AM



“ *Dear Farmer family,
My name is Rich Price from Colonial Heights, VA. I am a friend of Berk Bryant. I met Hap at Berk's 80th birthday celebration four years ago. And about two years ago, Hap met us for lunch one day when Berk was visiting in Lynchburg. Seldom have I met anyone who so quickly captivated my interest and admiration as did Hap. He reminded me so much of my late father-in-law, who coincidentally was also a farmer, a devout Christian, and a humble giant within his community. Though our encounter was brief, Hap's memory will live on in me--especially his love for family, friends, and community. Hopefully some of the positive spirit I observed in him will be seen by others in me. I offer each of you my sincerest condolences.*

Rich Price

Rich Price - January 11, 2015 at 09:17 PM

JC

“ My name is James Calloway Jr. I live at 264 Elon rd in Madison Heights. I fish at Happy's Lake mainly in the late fall and early spring. Happy and I shared a lot of discussions. He told me several times about his family; his daughter and grand children, and about his son who did sound effects for movies. He shared with me that even though he lived there for most of his life, he wasn't a fisherman but he wanted to learn to fish to take his grandchildren. I purchased an ultralight fishing rod and reel and gave him some of my special lures. On occasions, he would come down and fish with me. He told me how his grandchildren would come and fish with that reel and lure. He gave me a free years fishing pass and called me his friend! I know he worked a lot of years at night at GE so he could farm during the day. He loved people and animals. He will be sorely missed.

P.s. I am the guy with the white truck.

May God bless his family and may heaven smile upon you.

James Calloway - January 11, 2015 at 04:57 PM



James... Thank you for this. Two of my children are those grandchildren he spoke of, who like to fish. He did indeed take them, he did indeed fish with them and he did indeed let them use that 'pole'. Thank you for your kind words... I will forever wave at the 'white truck' when you come to fish... hope you catch 'the big one'! ~Suzanne Farmer Jennings

Suzanne Jennings - January 13, 2015 at 08:17 AM

AS

I will especially miss his smile and hugs when I sing at Kedron. What a special man with a special legacy he leaves behind. My sympathy, prayers and encouragement through this difficult time. But God will see you through and we have the joy of knowing we will see him again. Hugs to you Grace, Suzanne, Dave and all the family. Angie Stimpson

Angie Stimpson - January 13, 2015 at 03:56 PM

DB

“ Grace, Suzanne and Dave,
I was sadden to hear about Happy. He was a fine example to myself and the community of a man who lived his faith with kindness and integrity. As a child growing up at Kedron I will always remember his smile and kind words. Buddy and I share in your sorrow. Debbie Nash Burman

Deborah Nash Burman - January 11, 2015 at 03:25 PM

GT

“ Happy will be missed. But what great memories he left us. I remember helping him with the burley tobacco, getting up hay, and fishing in the pond. We were there and Happy was telling us about someone fishing and they caught a big fish that pulled the rod into the pond. Happy went on to say he put on a bathing suit and swam out to the get the rod and the huge fish. We all have memories and we will see him again some day.

Gary Tanner - January 11, 2015 at 12:28 PM

MC

“ Mary Anne, Oliver and Carol purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer.



Mary Anne, Oliver and Carol - January 11, 2015 at 11:47 AM

LM

“ *The Lynchburg Bird Club was sad to learn of the death of Walter “Happy” Lewis Farmer.*

Hap was generous in allowing us to enter his property and view birds in and around his “dollar pond”. Some of our members spoke with Hap on our last trip to the pond last fall. He enjoyed viewing the birds as much as our club members. Hap was a gentleman and he will be missed.

Lee and Nena Morgan, Secretaries, on behalf of the Lynchburg Bird Club

Lee Morgan - January 11, 2015 at 11:30 AM

BS

“ *Brenda Steele lit a candle in memory of Walter “Happy” Lewis Farmer*



Brenda Steele - January 11, 2015 at 10:30 AM

PL

“ *Dear Family,*

A group of Lynchburg Bird Club members had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Mr. Farmer last fall. We have been visiting his pond and fields for several months to enjoy the variety of birds to be seen there.

We all fondly remember the delightful time we had talking with him on a damp and wet Saturday morning and wish the family to know that we learned with sadness of his passing. He was a wonderful person to meet. Thank You

Peggy Lyons

Lynchburg Bird Club Member

Peggy LYONS - January 11, 2015 at 09:15 AM

BH

“ Grace (and family). I will always remember Happy as an outstanding person. I worked in tobacco for him. He even trusted me to drive his pickup truck to pick up some of the other workers. My brother, Tommy Smith, thought Happy was the most perfect person he had ever known. When Tommy passed away in 2006, the family asked Happy to speak at his funeral service, which he did and he did a wonderful job.

Betty Hudson

Betty Hudson - January 11, 2015 at 08:56 AM

MG

“ My condolences to the family in your bereavement.

Mike Garrison - January 11, 2015 at 06:10 AM

TH

“ I have known Hap since I was a small child, he has always been a role model, mentor, and example of what a Godly man should be. Losing him feels like losing my Dad all over again as I consider Hap, Grace, Suzanne, and Dave family. We have lost a great man and heaven has gained one. I know my Dad and Hap are celebrating and catching up on things since my Dad died last year. This is not goodbye but just we will see you a little later! One day we will all be together again and this time forever. Love you Farmer family and God bless, keep, and comfort you all!

Tony Hamlet - January 10, 2015 at 07:00 PM

BF

“ Grace, Suzanne, Dave & Family:

I (Betty) have near Hap since I was 10 years old and then married Robert in 1953 and Hap and Robert were great friends. We had 3 sons Tony, Kevin and Ricky. Hap was the second father to our 3 sons. Suzanne and Dave were like our kids too and what an awesome Christian family. After Robert's death Hap was always available to help me do things that needed done and loved every minute of helping out. Hap was one of God's angel that helped anyone he could.

We are sending our love and prayers to each of you and may God's peace comfort and give each of you strength in the days ahead.

Our hearts are sorrowful but we will see you again one day in heaven and God bless each of you

The Hamlet Family (Betty, Tony, Kevin, Ricky, Mattie, Danielle, Erin and Kari)

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Betty Hamlet & Family - January 10, 2015 at 03:22 PM

SB

“ Sue Mitchell Blackstock lit a candle in memory of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer



Sue Mitchell Blackstock - January 10, 2015 at 02:29 PM

SB

Grace & family,

I am so sorry for your loss. He was a special, special person. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Love,
Sue Mitchell Blackstock*

Sue Mitchell Blackstock - January 10, 2015 at 02:30 PM

LR

Happy is so loved and will be missed. The impact he had on the world will never be forgotten.

*Love to all,
Lisa Ring & Family*

Lisa Ring - January 10, 2015 at 11:30 PM

WP

“ Grace, Suzanne, Dave and family,

As a young boy, I considered Hap as my "hero" which, in my opinion, is someone you aspire to be. Happy is the Godly model and standard of what a man should be today.

I was amazed and influenced by his physical strength, his lovingkindness, his ability to teach and my having so much fun experiencing it. My fondest memories lie in the "old" house, riding my bicycle back and forth down the road, spending time with Hap in the short time we lived there on the farm, and the obvious love he had for his family, his God, and for me. What a remarkable man your husband and Dad is, and I say "is" because he is alive and well in Heaven right now, and more so than we are here in our physical existence. He will be missed for a little while, and then, we will be with him forever with our Lord.

Our heartfelt condolences to your family and I pray the Lord's peace, comfort, and strength to be yours, now, and in the days ahead.

Wayland & Peggy Pritchett

Wayland & Peggy Pritchett - January 10, 2015 at 11:52 AM

BR

“ *Happy was such a Great Example of a Christian. He was Kind, Gentle, Generous, and a Friend to Everyone. He was also a Great Leader in the Church who made time for everyone and was a Great Teacher for the Youth. My Family and Myself were so fortunate to have Happy in our Lives.*

Barney Riddle and Family

Barney C. Riddle - January 10, 2015 at 11:41 AM



“ *Let It Snow was purchased for the family of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer.*



January 10, 2015 at 10:53 AM



“ *Sherry Tucker Wien and her husband Gary purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer.*



Sherry Tucker Wien and her husband Gary - January 10, 2015 at 10:25 AM



“ *Our hearts are sad, Happy was such a great person. We will always remember his generosity & willing to help any way he could. I remember many times coming over to your house and asking Hap could I borrow the fence roller, post hole digger, or anything. Hap would say sure, you know where its at. If you need something and I'm not home, help yourself you know where to find it. He was a true gentleman & Christian. May God bless you and your family.*



Lynn & Helen Boteler

Lynn & Helen Boteler - January 10, 2015 at 08:40 AM

WJ

“ Our hearts are with you in your sorrow, in your grief, and also in your remembering and rejoicing. You will know through many cards, messages, calls, and visits that your dear husband, father, brother, grandfather was also, through his and your generosity and love, all those things to us here in the neighborhood, community, church, regional, and well-beyond. Tell us your stories. Let us help you. We are with you and love you, and will always be, dear Farmer family.



Willie and Norah Jones - January 10, 2015 at 06:30 AM

DM

“ Dot Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer



dot mitchell - January 10, 2015 at 04:22 AM

CA

“ Connie & C.j. Austin lit a candle in memory of Walter "Happy" Lewis Farmer



connie & c.j. austin - January 10, 2015 at 04:21 AM

BT

“ Grace, Suzanne, Dave and family,
I share in the heartbreak that you are feeling. I loved Happy so very much. He was my second dad. I know that you miss him so much already, but also are satisfied that he is without pain, not suffering, but in the glory of Heaven and those loved ones who have gone on before him. He knew he had such a wonderful future to look forward to! I find comfort in knowing that he is smiling and laughing and sharing good times with my mom and so many others! We here, left behind, will miss him every day but will look forward to when we will all be together again, forever.

*Much love and deepest sympathy to you all,
Becky R. Thomas*

Becky R. Thomas - January 09, 2015 at 04:42 PM

BH

Grace, Suzanne and Family,

We are holding you all up in prayer during this time of grief, sorrow and sadness. Knowing the kind of man Hap was we feel that your hearts must also be rejoicing knowing that he is with His Lord and Savior safe in His arms with no pain. Many, like you, will feel the loss of such a gracious man. We will once again see him in Heaven one day. Until then ... Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, loves leaves a memory no one can steal.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless you all.

*With much love,
Butch & Lee Holland*

Butch & Lee Holland - January 10, 2015 at 09:42 AM

CS

*Dear Grace, Suzanne, Dave & families,
Please know that our hearts are breaking as yours are. We have known Hap our entire lives, as have our children and grandchildren. It is literally impossible to think of him as being gone, but he has reached the pinnacle of his life's journey! He has achieved his goal - to be in Heaven with his Father and Son. May we all be as hardworking, and dedicated as he was and follow the great example Happy set for all of us. Our love and prayers are with each of you, Carroll & Amelia Smith & Family*

Carroll & Amelia Smith - January 11, 2015 at 07:07 AM

DD

Aunt Grace, Suzanne, Dave and Families,

After a lifetime of love, laughter and wonderful memories, we are heartbroken to bid farewell to Uncle Hap in this life, but know that the Gates of Heaven opened to him and he is now with his loving family members who preceded him in his next journey

*With all our love,
Dale, Mark, Ginna and Michael*

Dale DeJarnette - January 11, 2015 at 08:46 AM