



## Billy Cohen Coleman

January 3, 1916 - March 4, 2019

Lexington, SC

Billy Cohen Coleman, 103, husband of the late Lula Snyder Coleman, passed away on Monday, March 4, 2019, at the Carroll Campbell Place in Lexington, South Carolina. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Friday, March 8, 2019, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Saluda, SC, with Reverend Dr. Tom H. Norrell and Pastor Susan Maddox officiating, followed by a burial at Travis Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 7, 2019, at the Ramey Funeral Home, Saluda, SC.

Billy was born on January 3, 1916, to the late Ben Tillman Coleman and Annie Etheredge Coleman. "Mr. Billy," as many affectionately called him, was a lifelong resident of Saluda County, where he was born and raised, served as a lawyer for seventy years, and raised four daughters with Lula, who was the love of his life and his wife of 63 years.

Billy grew up on a cattle farm where he began working at a young age— butchering cows and pigs, and riding with his daddy on a horse and buggy to sell meat in Saluda starting when he was eight years old. Because his daddy was blind, Billy would act as his "eyes," and he learned to describe the world in vivid detail. And the slow, quiet life of that time left him hungry for fellowship

and eager to tell his stories to family and friends. With this upbringing, Billy developed three qualities that only grew more pronounced over the course of his long life: an ability to tell interesting stories in remarkable detail; a strong work ethic; and a love for the company of family and friends.

Billy graduated from Saluda High School and worked his way through college and law school at the University of South Carolina, starting his law practice in Saluda at the age of 22. He was elected to the South Carolina Senate at the age of 25, but he resigned to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II where he was in charge of twenty-seven landing boats during several invasions, including D-Day at Normandy. After the war, Billy returned to Saluda where he continued his law practice and endeared himself to the community through his extensive pro bono work, frequently making house calls to the ill, elderly, or incapacitated, and often helping young couples who were just starting out and then never sending them a bill. Having grown up very modestly himself, he felt a bond with the working poor, and he never was impressed by or interested in material possessions. He served the Saluda community in a variety of roles, including Saluda County attorney (1950-85), bookkeeper for the Saluda County Stockyard auctions (1945-1984); and Saluda County Veterans Affairs officer (1946-1980). He was also a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church (past trustee and steward), Saluda Lion's Club (past president), American Legion Post 65 (past commander), the Gamecock Club, and the Hearts Club (founding member), which had a standing Tuesday night hearts game for more than sixty years.

Billy will be missed by many, especially those in his family. In addition to his late wife, Lula, whom he loved dearly, he had a special bond with each of his four daughters, who visited him and (before she passed) their mama every weekend for more than twenty years—each daughter visiting one weekend a month. Along with his abundant stories, his family will miss his kindness, his humor, his strength, and his frequent reminders that he loved each of them

and wanted them to come back to visit as soon as they could. Billy is predeceased by his daughter, Nancy Ann Coleman Wooten of Orangeburg, who passed away in December of 2018, his brother, Thomas Cothran Coleman and his nephew, Thomas Ronald Coleman. He is survived by three daughters and four sons-in-law, Claire and Raymond Hesse of Aiken; Caren and Joseph Larate of McCormick; Julia and Marshall Johnson of Lexington; and Pat Wooten of Orangeburg; nine grandchildren, Benjamin Coleman Hesse (DeLoris) of Athens, Ga.; Paul Joseph Larate (Michelle) of Duluth, Ga.; Carrie Hesse Atkins (Lucas) of Simpsonville; William "Billy" Coleman Larate (Cassie) of Madison, Ga.; Nancy Johnson Brown (Ed) of Kailua, Hawaii; Caren Elizabeth "Eliza" Hesse Johnson (Dan) of Charlotte; Patrick Coleman Wooten (Tara) of Charleston; Lauren Julia Johnson of Charleston; and Julia Wooten Principe (Ryan) of Columbia; fifteen great-grandchildren; two nephews, Buddy Coleman and Ben Coleman and a sister-in-law, Dot Coleman. The family wishes to express sincere gratitude to all of Mr. Coleman's caregivers, especially Linda Pam.

Memorials may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of S.C., online or at 4151 Spruill Avenue, Suite 250, North Charleston, S.C. 29405 (please place "Coleman for the Cure" in the memo line); or to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 102 East Butler Avenue, Saluda, S.C. 29138.

# Cemetery Details

## Travis Park Cemetery

Travis Avenue  
Saluda, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ramey Funeral Home  
202 N Rudolph St  
Saluda, SC 29138  
(864) 445-2366

## Funeral

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
102 East Butler Avenue  
Saluda, SC 29138

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ *Teresa Rodgers lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Teresa Rodgers** - September 03, 2019 at 10:05 PM

GL

“ *A true Southern gentleman. He will be missed*

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**Gail Long** - March 07, 2019 at 01:50 PM

MS

“ *Madelyn Sauer lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Madelyn Sauer** - March 07, 2019 at 01:05 PM

CL

“ *Mr. Billy Coleman was a great friend of my uncle, George Bell Timmerman, Jr., and I know the feeling was mutual. My husband Angus also thought the world of Mr. Billy and loved being around him. He will be greatly missed, and we send our sincere sympathies to his family and friends,*

*Cary and Angus Lafaye*

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**Cary Lafaye** - March 07, 2019 at 10:55 AM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Billy Cohen Coleman.*



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March 07, 2019 at 09:14 AM



“ *Grateful to have known him through Ryan and Julia, for his incredible service to his country and individuals from all walks of life, and grateful that my sweet nephew carries his name. His legacy surely lives on in each member of his very special family.*

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**Jessica Principe** - March 06, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ *Jessica Principe lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Jessica Principe** - March 06, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ *Mr. Billy and Dr. George spent many hours in People's Drug on Saturday afternoons talking and reminiscing. Tuesday nights will always be hearts nights.*

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**Shanna Proctor** - March 06, 2019 at 02:09 PM

WB

“ *William And Linda Busby lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**William and Linda Busby** - March 05, 2019 at 09:24 PM

JE

“ *Your Family are in Our Thoughts and Prayers.  
The Monday Night Supper Friends.*

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**Jerry** - March 05, 2019 at 01:32 PM

RS

“ *Richard Starling lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Richard Starling** - March 05, 2019 at 10:33 AM

JB

“ *Sitting with Mr. Billy a few times gave me the pleasure to hear about his service in the Navy. This time he honored all of us with in protecting so many people is priceless. He was full of courage and a man not stifled by fear.  
Goodbye to you for now sweet man!  
Jenny and Earl Brown*

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**Jenny Brown** - March 05, 2019 at 10:16 AM

TF

“ *The Norris, Cassino and Engelhardt Family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Billy Cohen Coleman.*



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**The Norris, Cassino and Engelhardt Family** - March 05, 2019  
at 08:51 AM

SH

“ *Sethalene Huff lit a candle in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Sethalene Huff** - March 05, 2019 at 04:40 AM

ER

“ *Elise Bledsoe Rodgers sent a virtual gift in memory of Billy Cohen Coleman*



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**Elise Bledsoe Rodgers** - March 04, 2019 at 11:17 PM

GJ

“ *Prayers for all of you. Such a wonderful man. He and Jim probably have the "hearts" game going by now. He will most certainly be missed.*

*Ginny Jamison*

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**Ginny Jamison** - March 04, 2019 at 06:16 PM