



Bruce Lewie Merchant Sr.

March 10, 1917 - March 11, 2015

Bruce Lewie Merchant, Sr. died March 11, 2015 in Agape Hospice Home, Columbia, SC, the day after his 98th birthday, following a short time of declining health.

Lewie was a kind man with an infectious laugh. He loved his God, his family, and his friends. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

Born March 10, 1917 to Ben Lewis and Mary Allene Corley Merchant, Lewie grew up in a large farm family in Saluda, SC and graduated from Saluda High School. He served in the US Army during World War II, primarily in the South Pacific. At the war's conclusion, Lewie settled in West Columbia with his wife, Mary Lucretia Pow Merchant where they raised their two children. He worked with automotive parts most of his career, retiring from the SC Highway Department in 1982. Following Mary Lou's death in 1991, Lewie married Frances Stephens Crouch and relocated to Saluda, where he lived until entering Agape Assisted Living, West Columbia last year.

He was a charter member of two Cayce Baptist churches: Holland Avenue and Trinity. Recently, he was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Saluda. He served faithfully as Sunday School teacher, deacon and church treasurer.

Lewie was predeceased by both wives: Mary Lou, to whom he was married for 53 years; and Frances, to whom he was married for 21 years. He was also predeceased by his parents, brothers Darryl, Guy, Smith and Julius Merchant and sisters Rosalie Merchant Conner and Viola Merchant Langford.

He is survived by his sister: Mabel Merchant Hinson, Rock Hill, SC; daughter: Lucretia Elaine Merchant Jeffcoat (Robert), Durham, NC; and son: Bruce Lewie Merchant, Jr. (Carol), West Columbia. He is also survived by grandchildren: Karen Jeffcoat Hudson (Chad), Richmond, VA; Lew Merchant (Allison), West Columbia; and Catherine Merchant VanCleave (Neil), Leesville, SC.; great-grandchildren: Jesse, Colin and Zeke Hudson and Tradd, Abigail and Taylor Merchant; and by more than 30 nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 14, 2015 at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Saluda. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the JN DeLoache Sunday School Class or at the committal . Burial will follow at Southland Memorial Gardens, West Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Agape Foundation , 1053 Center St, West Columbia, SC 29169 or to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 102 East Butler Ave, Saluda, SC 29138.

The family expresses particular appreciation for the loving care and attention given by the staff at both Agape Senior of West Columbia and Agape Hospice of Columbia.

Cemetery Details

SouthLand Memorial Gardens

700 West Dunbar Road
West Columbia, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Funeral

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

TC

“ JUST FOUND OUT TODAY ABOUT LEWIE, IM SO SORRY TO HEAR THIS, HE WAS A GREAT MAN OF GOD AND IM SO THANKFUL THAT I GOT TO KNOW HIM.. PRAYING FOR THE FAMILY...ELAINE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, LOTS OF LOVE TO YOU AND THE FAMILY.... TAMMY CLARK

TAMMY CLARK - March 19, 2015 at 12:28 PM

TC

“ I JUST FOUND OUT, AND SO SORRY TO HEAR THIS.. HE WAS SUCH GREAT MAN OF GOD AND I LOVE TO HAVE KNOWN HIM.. TAMMY CLARK

TAMMY CLARK - March 19, 2015 at 12:19 PM

DH

“ *Elaine and Bob, and Karen and Chad and family:*

You all are in my prayers as you gather to grieve Lewie's death and celebrate his rich and long life! Prayers for a strong portion of God's comforting peace surrounding you during this time. Remember that you have lots of friends who love you and are praying for you. I wish I could be with you for his service!

Love and prayers,

Diane Eubanks Hill

Diane Eubanks Hill - March 13, 2015 at 08:09 PM

AD

“ We never met Mr. Merchant but feel that we know what kind of man he was b/c of his wonderful daughter, Elaine. Her care for him was so evident to us in these past few years that we have known her and Bob. We are remembering our resurrection faith for all who loved him, esp. during Saturday morning's visitation and funeral service. Sending God's love and light,
Anne and Jim Drennan
Durham, N.C.

Anne Drennan - March 13, 2015 at 06:44 PM

SA

“ I remember Mr Bruce and Mrs Mary Lou being chaperones for one of our Ridgecrest Trips. Great couple.
BTW Holland Avenue just celebrated the 60 yr anniversary.

Sallie Rae Ruff Marcil
Cayce SC

Sallie - March 13, 2015 at 08:48 AM

DS

Elaine and Bob. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. May you find peace and comfort in the days ahead and cherish the wonderful memories of your dear father. Donna and Andy

Donna Silva - March 15, 2015 at 06:59 AM

MW

“ Mary and I send our condolences to the family of Lewie Merchant. We pray God will give you the peace and comfort needed during this time. We knew Lewie and Mary Loue when they were members of Holland Ave. Baptist Church.

Our Love, Mary and Walter Walker

Mary & Walter Walker - March 13, 2015 at 08:43 AM