



Rudolph Mitchell

September 6, 1926 - January 29, 2019

Saluda, SC

Rudolph Mitchell

Born September 6, 1926, Rudolph Mitchell died peacefully at home on January 29, 2019. The youngest of four sons of Sue Bledsoe and Thomas Spearman Mitchell, Rudolph spent his entire life on their family farm in Saluda County. A graduate of Hollywood High School, and Veteran of WW II, he married his next-door neighbor Lenora Werts in 1949. Together, and with his brother Frank, they established Rudanks Farms – a prize-winning Guernsey Dairy herd.

He began his public service by serving as Master of the Higgins Grange. Under his leadership, Higgins was awarded Top Ten Grange Community Clubs in the United States. In 1962, he was elected to the SC House of Representatives introducing legislation to establish the Saluda County Nursing Home, a fee to support the SC Dept of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and advancement for agriculture and rural communities in SC. In 1973, he was elected to the SC Public Service Commission, served twice as Chairman. He retired in 1998.

He loved Saluda County and worked to improve the quality of life for his neighbors. He chaired the Saluda Pull-It Festival, faithfully volunteered his musical talents to the Saluda Nursing Home patients, and worked to establish the Saluda Dialysis Center.

A self-taught musician, he first played the mandolin as a member of the Silver Dew Boys. For 50 years, he and his late friend, Holly Price, entertained as “The Ivory Keys” – a piano and organ duo. They brought beauty and joy with their opening number - “Down Yonder”, waltzes, country classics, gospel favorites, and Rudolph’s jokes and recitations.

His home was a place of love, laughter and music. There, he shared his red roses, Christmas light displays, impromptu concerts, and his swimming pool, where hundreds of community children learned to swim.

He was a life-long member of Hickory Grove Advent Christian Church and served as Sunday School Superintendent and a member of the choir. His strong voice could be heard each Sunday praising God in song and resounding “Amen’s”.

He received the "Order of the Palmetto" from Governor David Beasley, was named Saluda County Citizen of the Year, and was inducted into the SC Dairy Hall of Fame at Clemson University.

He was predeceased by his parents, brothers – Thomas, J.D., and Frank; his wife of 44 years, Lenora; son, Randy; and grandson, Franklin Spearman. He is survived by his wife of 25 years – Faye Crawford Mitchell, daughter – Molly M. Spearman (Bill), and daughter-in-law Wanda Mitchell; grandchildren – Mitchell Spearman, Katie S. Cornwell (Lee), Amy M. Harper (Brandon), Jason Mitchell (Cory), Lauren and Jeremy Mitchell; great-grandchildren – Ava, Layla, and Revan Harper; Whitney, Madison and Kennedy Mitchell; Molly Brooke Cornwell and her baby sister – due in a few days; sisters-in law Virginia Mitchell and Jessie Werts. He is also loved and survived by Faye's family – children Jimmy Crawford (Elaine), Jewell Scott (Rudy), grandchildren Steve Scott (Kelli), Amy S. Boozer (Art), Jessica C. Trotter (Michael), Kristen and Macy Crawford, great-grandchildren – Cole and Ty Boozer; Harley Faye and Hunter Trotter; and Dylan, Bradley, Ryan and Emma Scott. Uncle Rudolph adored and was loved by his nephews, nieces and their families. He was equally proud of his many Mitchell and Bledsoe cousins. Special thanks to friends and care-takers Nancy McCorkle, Dorothy Ouzts, Barbara F. Sargent and Margie Daniels and Doctors Ralph Riley and Oscar Lovelace.

Funeral Services will be held at Hickory Grove Advent Christian Church, Friday, February 1 at 3:00 p.m. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service. Memorials may be made to Hickory Grove Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Rudy Scott, 363 Hickory Grove Road, Saluda 29138 or the charity of choice. Ramey's Funeral Home of Saluda, South Carolina is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hickory Grove Advent Christian Church Cemetery

340 Hickory Grove Rd.
Saluda, SC 29138

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Hickory Grove Advent Christian Church
340 Hickory Grove Rd.
Saluda, SC 29138

Funeral

FEB 1. 3:00 PM (ET)

Hickory Grove Advent Christian Church
340 Hickory Grove Rd.
Saluda, SC 29138

Tribute Wall



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.*



February 01, 2019 at 09:08 AM

BH

“ *We send our sincere sympathy to you today. May our Lord wrap His loving arms around you.*

Bill & Angelia S Hawes - January 31, 2019 at 02:51 PM

GM

“ *A true lion of the community, Mr. Rudolph was one of those "larger than life" figures whose impact on others in his long journey on this earth cannot be adequately put into words. Many happy memories of Mr. Rudolph and his whole special family. Molly, Katie, Mrs. Fay, all the Mitchell clan... please accept our prayers of comfort and deepest sympathy. Greg & Sharon Mack.*

Greg Mack - January 31, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.*



January 31, 2019 at 11:37 AM

RP

“ *Real Champions Inc, friends of Bob & Dale Paulling purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – Purple for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.*



Real Champions Inc, friends of Bob & Dale Paulling - January 30, 2019 at 08:24 PM



“ Donna Padgett sent a virtual gift in memory of Rudolph Mitchell



Donna Padgett - January 30, 2019 at 07:37 PM

BS

My prayers & sympathy to the family. Bess Skelton

Bess Skelton - February 05, 2019 at 11:52 PM

BM

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Mr. Mitchell. I am so sorry for your loss. We will all cherish the fond memories.*

Mrs. Thomas E. Whittle (Brenda)

Brenda Mitchell - January 30, 2019 at 03:47 PM

BL

“ *Burlan Manufacturing, LLC purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.*



Burlan Manufacturing, LLC - January 30, 2019 at 02:43 PM

JE

“ *Am true Statesman and loyal customer.*

Your Family are in Our Thoughts and Prayers.

Your FRIENDS at The Hardware Store.

Jerry - January 30, 2019 at 12:51 PM

JG

“ *Joy Gillian lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Mitchell*



Joy Gillian - January 30, 2019 at 11:33 AM

DK

“ So many fond memories, over the years. Peace!
Donnelle (Eargle) Kavanagh
p.s. Clarence & Bonnie's daughter

Donnelle (Eargle) Kavanagh - January 30, 2019 at 08:15 AM

CD

“ Molly and Family, Heaven has a new, beautiful angel named Rudolph. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. ((HUGS)), Cecelia Dunay from MD

cecelia m dunay - January 30, 2019 at 08:04 AM



“ Red Rose Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.



January 29, 2019 at 10:37 PM

NO

“ Dearest Mitchell family, our prayers are with all of you during this time of mourning this dear man's passing and also a time of celebration for life well lived by Mr Rudolph who touched my life and countless others with his pure love and kindness. He always greeted me with a loving smile and called me his neighbor across the river. Cherish all those precious memories as I shall forever be thankful for having this honorable man touch my heart with his generous love. Respectfully, Nancy and Tim Owen



Nancy Perdue Owen - January 29, 2019 at 08:24 PM

SR

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Mitchell's passing! He and my mother were classmates! Such a wonderful person!

Sylvia Rikard - January 29, 2019 at 08:16 PM



“ Rest well. When I get to heaven please play and sing "Three Rusty Nails" for me. Sweet memories.

Lisa Hudson - January 29, 2019 at 08:01 PM

RS

“ I am so sorry to hear. Wanda, I didn't know about Randy. Don always thought so much of you all!

Rosa Saylor

Rosa Saylor - January 29, 2019 at 07:50 PM

DH

“ Great loving memories of my awesome cousin--Never forget the "swamp meetings" when my Dad-Bill Mitchell was in politics- Such a kind loving man to all who was ever around him- Praying for peace and comfort for the entire family---

Dianne Mitchell Holcomb

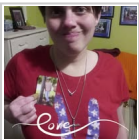
Dianne Mitchell Holcomb - January 29, 2019 at 06:30 PM

VH

“ Molly and family,
Sorry to hear of Mr. Rudolph passing away. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I love to remember the great times that we had at the Bledsoe reunion with Rudolph playing either the piano or guitar and everyone singing. Love to all of you.

Velda Howard.

Velda Howard - January 29, 2019 at 04:56 PM



“ I want to send my condolences to the family especially the whole family especially my classmates Jason Lauren Jeremy and Jessica so sorry

Martha Storey - January 29, 2019 at 04:49 PM

KR

“ Thinking of the entire Mitchell family. So very sorry for your loss. A wonderful man and friend to many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Kathleen Roberts - January 29, 2019 at 04:35 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.



January 29, 2019 at 03:35 PM

TC

“ Thinking of you!
Tammie Covington

Tammie Warren Covington - January 29, 2019 at 03:18 PM

BC

“ Thinking of you all and sending out prayers. What a lovey person Cousin Rudolph was. He will not be forgotten!

Beverly Cruz - January 29, 2019 at 02:31 PM

YP

“ You remain in our thoughts and prayers purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Rudolph Mitchell.



You remain in our thoughts and prayers - January 29, 2019 at 02:28 PM

MA

“ Molly, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I remember Mr. Mitchell from Farm Bureau Conventions and his music.
Martha Anne Axson

Martha Axson - January 29, 2019 at 02:23 PM

BH

Rudolph Mitchell was instrumental in getting the dialysis clinic in Saluda. I thank him.

Bill Higbee - January 29, 2019 at 05:19 PM

TF

“ So sorry to hear this. He was a good man and was always so happy. I have many memories of him from my childhood. He and Ms Lenora played a big part in that "village" that raised me. My sympathy to the family.

Terry Force

Terry Force - January 29, 2019 at 02:14 PM

DL

“ So sorry to learn of Rudolph’s death. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Great memories of the Bledsoe family reunions and the great music provided by Rudolph on the piano. Love to you Molly and family. Anna Rae Thrift Smith and Donna

Donna Long - January 29, 2019 at 02:09 PM

MJ

“ I know that Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Holly are making some beautiful music and telling stories with my daddy, "Spat" Langford. Tomorrow marks the 14th anniversary of Daddy's passage to his New Home. Blessings on you Molly and also the entire family. ~~~Mae Langford Jackson

Mae Langford Jackson - January 29, 2019 at 01:44 PM

DT

“ Dear family, it is with deep sorrow I saw the notice of Mr. Rudolph/s passing. I had asked my brother to see if he could find his telephone number so when I came to the Saluda Nursing Home to see my sister-in-law I would come by and visit him. I will miss seeing him. My prayers to the family and the hope they have of seeing him one day. Sincerely, Dr. Eldon Tucker

Dr. Eldon Tucker - January 29, 2019 at 01:42 PM

DT

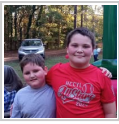
“ Sincere love and sympathy sent to you all! Mr. Rudolph was always a bright spot in our family's life. My first memories of him were listening to his wonderful music as he played with The Ivory Keys. As kids, we loved to ride by and see the fountain that cascaded from his pond as we also tried to count how many cows he had! Little things, for sure, but they added up as we always recalled his jolly demeanor and his twinkling smile. How he loved his family! And yes, they excelled and made him so proud! We are sure many happy reunions have taken place today as he was greeted by those from his family who left before he did. May you all be comforted in the fact that he is one that lived life to its fullest! With love, Doug and Debra Templin

Debra H. Templin - January 29, 2019 at 01:39 PM

KL

“ Saddened to hear of Mr. Rudolph's passing. He is one of the finest men that I have ever known. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Keith Lester - January 29, 2019 at 01:31 PM



Our Hollywood Community and Saluda County gained another great Angel. Praying for peace for the family.

Ginny Gregory - January 29, 2019 at 02:36 PM

DB

So sorry to hear about Mr. Rudolph. Prayers for all of the family..

Donna Berry - January 29, 2019 at 10:02 PM

JW

Dear Molly and family my deepest sympathy to you and family. I have fond memories of Mr. Rudolph coming in to my store and visiting with me and my employees.

John Wheeler - January 30, 2019 at 09:22 AM

PS

Molly and Family, We have so many sweet memories of Rudolph. Know the angels are enjoying his "The Great Speckled Bird". Milton and Patsy Schumpert

Pat Schumpert - January 30, 2019 at 07:55 PM